BHAVNAGAR DISTRICT GAZETTEER

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GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS

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Government of Gujarat

BHAVNAGAR DISTRICT

AHMEDABAD
1969

GAZETTEER OF INDIA

GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS

BHAVNAGAR DISTRICT

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PREFACE

The term 'Gazetteer' means a geographical index or dictionary. In view, however, of their long association with a work of literary nature and the difference in the objective of their compilation, it has acquired a different connotation. For, the Gazetteers, as we have now come to understand, portray the various aspects of the life of the people of the district, social, political, economic and cultural. In the Presidency of Bombay of which Gujarat then formed part, the work of compilation of District Gazetteers was taken up by Mr. James M. Campbell in 1874 and completed in 1884. But their actual publication was spread over a period of 27 years. These Gazetteers were so designed as to give a complete picture of the district to men, who were entirely strangers to India and its people, but who as members of the ruling race carried on their shoulders the responsibility of conducting its administration. The Gazetteers published by the then Government of Bombay had 27 volumes, some of them split into two or three parts, making a total of 35 books, which included some volumes of a general nature dealing with history and people. The general volume devoted to the population of Gujarat was in two parts, one describing Hindus and the other Musalmans and Parsis.

The Gazetteers of the old, which were compiled over 70 years ago had long become scarce and out of print. These volumes giving as they did useful material of great value contained information which had become obsolete and out-of-date. The Government of India after Independence, therefore, decided to take up the work of revision and bringing them up to date. The programme of revision covered not only the District Gazetteers but also the Imperial Gazetteers as well, known as 'Indian Empire Volumes'. A conference of those interested in this work as well as of representative of the Central and State Governments was convened in 1955, when a detailed plan for the revision of District Gazetteers was finalised. With a view to avoid a certain bias consciously or unconsciously expressed in the old Gazetteers in view of their principal objective to make them useful to the British Civil Servant, it was specifically laid down that the revised Gazetteers should confine themselves entirely to an objective and authentic presentation of facts, avoiding any account of bias and controversy. It was also emphasised that the revised edition, while aiming at preserving what is useful and reliable in the old, should endeavour to give a comprehensive picture of the latest developments, recent finds, investigations and research by so restating facts as to bring them in line with the new discoveries and scientific advance.

Prior to 1947 the units now forming part of Gujarat State were known as Ahmedabad, Kaira, Panchmahals, Surat and Broach districts of the former Province of Bombay, the former Gujarat States Agency, the Sabarkantha

Agency, the Indian States of Baroda, Idar, Radhanpur, Vijaynagar, Palanp and Danta except Abu Road taluka, the States of Kathiawar and Ku included in the Western Indian States Agency and the former Dangs St The statement given below shows the former and existing administr and political units included in the District Gazetteers originally publishe

Sl. No.	Volume number of old District Gazetteers	Former Districts, States and Agencies	Areas of the existing Districts
1	Volume II	Surat and Broach	(a) Broach (b) Surat (c) Bulsar
2	Volume III	Kaira and Panchmahals	(a) Kaira (b) Panchmahals
3	Volume IV	Ahmedabad	(a) Ahmedabad (b) Gandhinagar
4	Volume V	Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha	(a) Kutch (b) Banaskantha (c) Sabarkantha
5	Volume VI	Rewakantha, Cambay and Surat States	(a) Baroda (b) Kaira (c) Bulsar
6	Volume VII	Baroda	(a) Baroda (b) Mehsana (c) Gandhinagar (d) Surat (e) Bulsar
7	Volume VIII	Kathiawar	(a) Jamnagar (b) Rajkot (c) Surendranagar (d) Bhavnagar (e) Amreli (f) Junagadh

Among the existing districts separate Gazetteers were published on for the former districts of Ahmedabad, Broach, Surat, Kaira and Panch mahals. Among the former Indian States, such a distinction was enjoyed on by Kutch and Baroda States. But the Saurashtra States were included in on single Volume for Kathiawar and the Gujarat States were distributed betwee Volumes V and VI.

While the erstwhile British districts have considerably outgrown thei original territorial limits after Independence as a result of integration and merger, most of the other districts carved out from Indian States have come into existence for the first time. Gazetteers, therefore, assume a special significance for Gujarat, where it is not merely revision but complete rewriting of those written in the past and compilation *de novo* for the districts constituted after 1947. The general scheme and contents of the revised series is based on the Central pattern evolved for uniform adoption by the States and Union Territories.

The compilation of District Gazetteers under these circumstances calls intensive basic work in the collection, compilation and processing of tistical data and other information from numerous sources, official as was non-official which have to be further supplemented by field investigation, official records and published literature. Further complications arise m the non-availability of essential material for the districts as at present stitued. While all have lent a helping hand in this stupendous task, it has been always possible to get all the requisite information in time or in entirety. These are no small handicaps, which had to be overcome to extent possible by personal approach and on the spot study wherever essary.

Besides available literature, reports, etc., I have freely drawn upon own publications which I have had the good fortune to bring out for the te of Gujarat in connection with the Census of 1961. In the chapter on story, ancient period has been dealt with by Prof. H. G. Shastri of B. J. titute, Ahmedabad, and the medieval and modern periods by Prof. S. C. ra of Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda. The portion relating to ography is the work of Dr. V. A. Janaki, Head of the Department of Geoaphy of M. S. University.

I am indebted to the late Shri Balwantray Mehta and Shri Hitendrabhai esai, Chief Ministers, Gujarat, for their keen interest in the revision and ompilation of District Gazetteers which has enabled me to organise this ork on a systematic basis. I must also acknowledge the work done by Shri R. B. Srivastava, Deputy Editor, and the technical staff Sarvashri U. M. hokshi, M. R. Trivedi and A. P. Bhatt, Research Officers.

The Government of India have rendered financial help in bringing out his Gazetteer by giving financial assistance towards the cost of its compilation and printing. To Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education, Government of India, I am deeply grateful for going through the draft and making useful suggestions which have been incorporated in this volume.

AHMEDABAD,
27th August, 1966

R. K. TRIVEDI,
Chief Editor.

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Location

Bhavnagar district is situated in the south-east corner of the peninsular region of Gujarat known as Kathiawar or Saurashtra. It lies between 21°-18′ and 22°-18′ north latitude and between 71°-15′ and 72°-18′ east longitude. The district is bounded by Surendranagar and Ahmedabad districts on the north, Rajkot and Amreli districts on the west, Arabian Sea and part of Amreli district on the south and the Gulf of Cambay on the east.

Origin

The district of Bhavnagar takes its name from the city of Bhavnagar, the former capital of Bhavnagar State and at present the headquarters of the district. On the formation of Saurashtra State it was named Gohilwad district, as the most of the areas comprised therein formed part of what was prior to the Independence of the country and after the advent of the British designated as Gohilwad Prant. This particular region derived the title of Gohilwad as it was ruled by the various branches of Gohil Rajputs who came to Saurashtra from Rajasthan in the latter half of the 13th century. The principal branches of the Gohils which occupied this area were (1) Bhavnagar, (2) Palitana, (3) Vala and (4) Lathi. All these emerged as separate States, Bhavnagar being the largest and most progressive among them. This branch first established its capital at Umrala in 1309, shifted it to Sihor in 1547 and to the present site in 1723, when the far-sighted ruler that Bhavsinhji I was founded Bhavnagar with the twin objects of enabling himself to take to sea in the event of invasion and developing maritime trade of his State. In course of time Bhavnagar became a progressive State and the new capital, the present city of Bhavnagar standing on the village site of Vadwa, grew rapidly under its benevolent rulers and sagacious Diwans.

On the declaration of Independence of the country on August 15, 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of modern India, ushered a new era of integration and consolidation of princely areas, which led to the formation of the United State of Kathiawar, later called Saurashtra. Before 1948, the entire Saurashtra peninsula was politically fragmented and administratively distributed into 222 States and Estates of various sizes and jurisdictions. The Government of Saurashtra was faced with the task of evolving a unified system of administration in place of the feudal set-up in vogue till then. The administration of the new State was organised on modern lines and the district was made the principal unit of administration. The district

at that time consisted of the territories of the former princely States and Thanas of Bhavnagar, Palitana, Vala, Lathi, Raisankali, Jafrabad, Lakhapadar, Dedan and Songadh. On the reorganisation of States under the Reorganisation Act, No. 37 of 1956, the State of Saurashtra, of which the district of Gohilwad formed part, was merged into the composite State of Bombay. Large scale territorial changes took place in 1959, when Amreli district was substantially enlarged by transferring a number of villages from the neighbouring districts, Bhavnagar or Gohilwad district in particular, which contributed 149 out of 251 villages which were annexed. As a result of these changes, the present Bhavnagar district is comprised of the former Gohilwad district *less* (i) all villages of Rajula mahal except one, (ii) Jafrabad mahal, (iii) Lilia mahal, (iv) Lathi mahal *minus* 12 villages, (v) 17 villages of Kundla taluka, (vi) 2 villages of Umrala mahal and 2 villages of Gadhada mahal. On the other hand, Gogha mahal, 7 villages of Damnagar mahal of Amreli district and 3 of Rajula mahal were transferred to Bhavnagar district. The details of territorial changes which have taken place are given in Annexure I at the end. There have been no major changes in the territorial jurisdiction of the district since then, except some internal adjustment in the boundaries of talukas, resulting from the transfer of 16 villages of Gogha mahal to Bhavnagar and Sihor talukas.

Area of the district as communicated by the Surveyor General, India, is 4,652 sq. miles as against 3,575·4 sq. miles or 9,260·3 sq. km. furnished by the State Survey Department. This difference in area figures can be accounted for by two factors, namely, (i) reorganisation of the district and (ii) introduction of cadastral survey in unsurveyed villages.

POPULATION

In 1951, the population of the district as constituted in 1961 was 885,594. According to 1961 Census the population rose to 1,119,435 and registered an increase of 283,841 or 26·40 per cent. The total rural population of the district is 767,006 distributed into 881 inhabited villages as against 352,429 persons living in towns numbering 13 of which Bhavnagar with a population over 100,000 has been classified as a city. The rural-urban ratio works out to 68·52 : 31·48.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

Prior to 1947, the entire Saurashtra peninsula was parcelled out into various units, large and small, known as States and Estates, without any uniformity in the system of administration though Bhavnagar and some of the Salute States had evolved a well established system of administration, based more or less on the pattern obtaining in the adjoining British districts The State of Bhavnagar was divided into two revenue divisions, namely, (i) Northern and (ii) Southern, further subdivided into mahals. When the

re peninsula was integrated into the State of Saurashtra, the district became for the first time the principal unit of administration organised on the basis of district administration prevalent in the neighbouring Province of Bombay. It is this system which is in existence today even in the newly born State of Gujarat. Bhavnagar district is divided into 3 subdivisions, 7 talukas and 5 mahals and 894 villages of which 13 villages are uninhabited. The particulars of area and population thereof are given in the subjoined statement.

STATEMENT I·1

Administrative Divisions, 1961[1]

Sl. No.	Subdivision/ taluka / mahal	Area (in sq. miles)	Number of towns	Number of villages	Population Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	District Total ..	**3,575.4**	**13**	**894**	**1,119,435**	**767,006**	**352,429**
	Bhavnagar Subdivision	*1,447.5*	*6*	*305*	*472,138*	*242,860*	*229,278*
1	Bhavnagar ..	356.2	1	57	230,900	54,427	176,473
2	Gogha ..	223.5	1	62	50,709	45,237	5,472
3	Vallabhipur .	225.9	1	60	40,992	34,084	6,908
4	Botad ..	289.7	2	51	77,082	46,380	31,302
5	Gadhada ..	352.2	1	75	71,855	62,732	9,123
	Palitana Subdivision	*1,322.5*	*5*	*337*	*394,227*	*310,875*	*83,352*
6	Palitana ..	274.9	1	93	89,871	65,290	24,581
7	Sihor ..	246.8	1	69	74,023	58,760	15,263
8	Umrala ..	153.2	1	43	44,206	39,951	4,255
9	Gariadhar ..	177.5	1	51	56,401	48,199	8,202
10	Kundla ..	470.1	1	81	129,726	98,675	31,051
	Mahuva Subdivision	*805.4*	*2*	*252*	*253,070*	*213,271*	*39,799*
11	Mahuva .	471.2	1	133	149,497	116,765	32,732
12	Talaja ..	334.2	1	119	103,573	96,506	7,067

These subdivisions have been reconstituted as under from 1st April 1963 consequent upon the introduction of the Panchayati Raj.

Sl. No.	Name of Subdivision	Name of taluka/ mahal	Number of villages and towns	Population
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar ..	63	236,880
		Gogha ..	47	40,035
2	Palitana	Palitana ..	94	89,871
		Gariadhar ..	52	56,401
		Sihor ..	81	78,717
		Botad ..	53	77,682
		Gadhada ..	76	71,855
		Umrala ..	44	44,206
		Vallabhipur ..	61	40,992
3	Mahuva	Mahuva ..	134	149,497
		Talaja ..	120	103,573
		Savarkundla ..	82	129,726
		Total ..	**907**	**1,119,435**

1. *District Census Handbook* 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 6

Physical Features

Relief and Drainage

The aspect of the country differs in the different places from the coastal marshes and sand fringing the Gulf of Cambay to the hilly areas of Palitana, Sihor and Kundla in the south and south-east and Botad and Gadhada in the north-west.

Most of Kathiawar hills belong to one of two systems which, running north-east and south-west, form irregular chains crossing the peninsula in nearly parallel lines. Of these the north-eastern series begins a little to the east of Kotda—Pitha and stretch northward throwing off two branches, one known as the Mandav hills, going north to Chotila and Than and finally sinking into a plain at Dhrangadhra, and the other the Thanga chain, south of the Rajkot—Wadhwan road which begins as a stony plateau with low barren ridges and gradually develops into a succession of short rocky ranges culminating in the Barda hills overlooking the Arabian Sea at Porbandar.

The district of Bhavnagar has very few of the hilly ranges belonging to the north-eastern system except its outliers which, passing from Kotda—Pitha and Kotda—Sangani in Rajkot district, almost form a central highland region and abut into the district making its north-western part, namely, portions of Botad and Gadhada divisions hilly. West of Dhrufania the hills reach a height of 760 feet. In Bhadli, Itaria and Kariana the height of the hills range from 382 to 971 feet and reach almost up to the valley of the Kalubhar.

The northern-eastern series of Kathiawar hills are generally sterile. Their eastern extention which reaches into the district consists of sandstones and shales through which traps crop. Large areas are also occupied by basalt. In parts the hills are utterly barren, in others they are thinly covered by cactus scrub and low brushwood.

The south-western system of Kathiawar hills penetrate into the district in the south making Kundla, Palitana and Sihor quite hilly. Generally the height of these hills ranges from 1,000 to 1,500 feet although one of its peaks, Nandivela, outside the district, reaches a height of 1,737. Lying almost parallel to the coast in a south-west north-easterly direction these south-western hills of Kathiawar dominate the central south of the district of Bhavnagar. Beginning at Mangrol in Junagadh district and leaving on the north the great isolated Girnar, the southern western series of Kathiawar hills, at first consists of detached moderately sized hills and passes through the southern part of Junagadh and Amreli districts where it fills a breadth of about thirty miles. It narrows as it trends eastward and the forest gives place to grass and low brushwood as it enters the Bhavnagar district. At Ambardi

a break occurs and the hills sink into a plain crossed by low stony ridges and scored by the headwaters of the Dhatarvadi river. Beyond the Dhatarvadi they again rise, and under the name of the lesser Gir or Mordhar range circle north-east, following the bend of the coast, in a succession of rocky ranges up to a second break where the river Shetrunji cuts its way into the Gulf of Cambay. Beyond the Shetrunji, the range once again appears in detached masses known as Shatrunjaya and Lonch hills rising abruptly to 1,500 feet and 2,000 feet and in two ranges of lesser elevation called Lamdhar and Khokhra hills, carry the direction northward to the neighbourhood of Sihor (602 feet) where they merge with the coastal plain of the Gulf of Cambay.

The hills of Kathiawar belonging to the south-western series, in general formation, consist of traps of varying composition associated with granite and gneiss and pass under beds of calcareous sandstone which in parts assume the nature of lime-stone. Some of the hills in the Bhavnagar district belonging to this group are barren and rocky, although the Lonch and Shatrunjaya hills are thinly covered with low brushwood and some others have an abundance of grass. To the south of the Shetrunji the Mordhar hills or the lesser Gir present a continuous range of grass covered slopes which rise abruptly on the north side and on the south end in long spurs running to the south-west. The hill tops are generally bare but the ravines hold some small timber. On the outskirts also the ravines in the hills are covered with a little grass and brushwood. Further in, the forest gradually thickens particularly towards the west in the districts of Amreli and Junagadh. In places laterite of good quality is available as building stone and a conglomerate is to be found, the latter sometimes abounding in fossils. In both the north-eastern and south-western hill tracts of Kathiawar, as well as in the central highlands which almost join the two, there occur dykes of columnar basalt which generally run north-east south-west and sometimes cross this line at right angles. They score the whole face of the peninsula with long narrow ridges. Some of these dykes look like a great rampart in ruins. These dykes are quite common in the central and south-eastern parts of the Kathiawar peninsula in the trappean area. Apart from these two hills systems of Kathiawar which dominate the north-west and central south of the district of Bhavnagar, there are two other distinct physical regions in the district, namely, (1) the coastal plain including the adjacent sand banks and (2) the inland plain. The coastal plain is broken with rocks and hillocks while the plain to the interior is in places flat and in other places undulating and broken by hills.

The Coastal Plain and the Adjacent Sand Banks

Bhavnagar district has roughly a ninety mile coast broken by many creeks. Yet it has no good harbours. Bhavnagar is on a creek and communication with it depends on the tides. It is one of the intermediate ports of

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Gujarat. Gogha is a little better than a roadstead. Mahuva is a small port open to coastal as well as foreign trade.

The Coastal Plain of Bhavnagar which overlooks the Gulf of Cambay and the Arabian Sea can be divided into three sections and several subsections :

1. From Sonrai creek to Gogha is a nineteen mile stretch of low muddy foreshore of marsh and swamp and mangroves, partly sandy and partly rocky. The coastal marsh extends to only about three or four miles from the Gulf. But they penetrate into the interior along the river courses such as the Kalbi and the Kalubhar and along the Bhavnagar and Sonrai creeks to a distance of about twelve miles. Up to Bhavnagar and for several miles inland the coastal belt is lined with mangrove thickets, covered in parts with course grass unfit for cattle. It is seamed by several creeks besides the Sonrai and Bhavnagar, and overflowed by high tides for a considerable distance inland.

The Bhavnagar shoal is six to seven miles from the town and one and a half miles from the shore. It is a sand bank and the ship channel is to the west of Bhavnagar shoal. Bhavnagar is difficult to reach, being approached by a winding creek. The Central bank, formerly five miles east of Bhavnagar shoal, consists of shifting sands and may be said to be connected with the Rhook bank at the north end of the Bavliari creek. There is a patch of 3½ fathoms in the tail of the Great Mal bank east north-east of Gogha and rather more than six miles north of Piram. The position of this bank is also uncertain and it seems to be moving south. South of Bhavnagar the coast rises towards Gogha and it becomes more rocky. Some little hills can be seen in the background.

2. From Gogha to Gopnath point, for a distance of about thirty-nine miles, the coast is sandy and overflowed during high water. From Gogha to Morchand, a distance of about twenty miles the sandy coast is comparatively broad and tolerably high broken by ravines and trees near the villages. South of it, up to the mouth of the Shetrunji, the sandy coast becomes very narrow, fringed with sand hills. At Mithivirdi village and in the neighbourhood sweet water springs occur near the sea coast. Beyond the Shetrunji river the coastal belt widens out again and merges with the marshes of Sultanpur and Tarsara. The country is low and overflowed at spring tides and dry banks run out two miles from the shore. Further inland it is open country rather well tilled, with no bushy trees except near the villages but the leafless thorny bush is seen everywhere. Several points along this stretch of the coast from Gogha to Gopnath used to be landmarks for sailors right up to the early part of this century.

The passage from Broach to Gogha was quite clear for ships, but the Mal bank now seems to be drying more to the south than before.

East of Gogha town is the Gogha shoal, a narrow sand bank lying in the direction of the stream and its south end is three miles east of Gogha. The Gogha shoal is one of the sandy patches on the Mahumdi bank the shore of which stretches from the rocky reefs off Kuda point to the entrance of the Bhavnagar creek. The bank is chiefly composed of red and yellow clay with occasional sand patches. The Gogha shoal is one such sand patch. All the rocky part on the south end of the Mahumdi bank is within a radius of three miles from Kuda village to the north-east. There are two shoal banks nearly dry at low water two and three miles east of Gogha. Those entering Gogha had to be particularly careful of these shoals and the sea-farers used to keep the large baniyan tree or the peaked tree at Gogha in site as a landmark. Off Gogha there is a little deep gut which was well-known to local sailors as being safe for anchoring. But because of the shoals on the Mahumdi bank, vessels had to anchor in five and ten fathoms clay bottom, about 3½ miles from Gogha. Yet Gogha was a famous port of Mediaeval Gujarat. One mile north-west of the shoal is a little rock called Perigree rock which covers and uncovers. At low water of ordinary spring tides it is just awash and sometimes is three or four feet above water. South of Perigree rock and east of Gogha mosque there is a patch of clay having only five feet at low tide. The Gogha creek runs along the north-east side of the town.

Another notable landmark on this patch of coast from Gogha to Gopnath was the Goriali village standing two miles inland and 3½ miles to the south-west of Mithivirdi. Between Goriali and the sea stands Soshia village where the land is hilly and grass covered. Off Soshia village are patches of rock, one mile off shore having seven fathoms close to them. To the south-west, half south of Mithivirdi is the Mathwada village on the extreme south of the hilly coast. The bank of Mathwada shelves gradually into five fathoms to the north of Sultanpur shoal.

Talaja hill, eight miles west south-west of Mathwada, 10 miles north-west of Gopnath point and 4½ miles north-west of Sultanpur, is a small steep conical hill rising to about 400 feet sheer off a level plain. Between Talaja hill and Bhavnagar creek is a range of hills. On the top of Talaja hill is a Hindu temple with excellent water. The hill is also sacred to the Jains. The hill has caves cut in solid rock which used to be a resort of sea going Indian merchants as late as 1823. Some Buddhist relics belonging to the 4th century are seen in the caves. The Palitana (Shatrunjaya) hills stand about thirteen miles north-west by west half

west from Talaja hill and twenty miles north-west of Gopnath point. On clear days it can be seen from the sea at a greater distance than Talaja hill as it rises to about 2,000 feet.

At the mouth of the Shetrunji river is the small trading port of Sultanpur the first landing place for the one time sailors from Gogha after leaving that port. It is south-west by south, seven miles from Mathwada. Close to the landing, about a mile within the entrance is a well with good water. Between Sultanpur shoal and the town small boats could anchor in three fathoms mud. Sultanpur shoal is rock, sand and clay with a patch of sand nearly dry at lowest spring tides. It lies 4½ miles east of the entrance to Shetrunji river. The north end of this ground bears north-east three fourths north, nine miles from Gopnath point. With Talaja hill bearing west half north it was one of the land-marks which was clearly visible to sea going vessels. The shoal is almost joined with Gopnath point by other banks between which there were passages for small sea going vessels.

3. From Gopnath to Gadhada, the coast is about 32 miles, and it is rather rocky and strewn with off shore rocky islands. They are of moderate height and sometimes hollowed by sea into caverns. From the sea this coast and also its continuation up to Diu is singularly pleasing. Bold headlands and white flat roofed picturesque towns succeed each other. The sea is gay and behind the line of white breakers are groves and cultivated fields with glimpses of distant hills.

The Gopnath temple near the Gopnath point dedicated to Mahadev stands about 150 feet from the sea, six miles south of the entrance to the Shetrunji river. It is almost surrounded by trees ¾ of a mile to the north north-west of the tip of Gopnath point. It is visible in clear whether fifteen to sixteen miles from the sea. Off Gopnath point a reef runs north-east which almost joins the Sultanpur shoal. South of this point the coast may be approached close into seven fathoms. The channel between Gopnath shoal and Malaiki bank is only six miles broad. The nearest shoal of the Malaiki bank bears south-east six miles from Gopnath point. The soundings between are irregular and the depth gives no clue to the sandy bottoms and mud to be found towards the coast of Bhavnagar. The bed of the channel between the Malaiki bank and the coast appears to be very flat. To the west of Gopnath point is a line of high sand-stone cliffs.

THE INLAND PLAIN

Behind the coastal belt lies the inland plain which particularly in the southerly talukas of the district holds enough fresh water and is of great fertility. The water here is found at the surface. The soil is black garden or dry cropland almost everywhere. South of Bhavnagar, laterite occupies a

continuous though narrow belt of about twenty miles in extent for the most part overlapped by tertiary and alluvial deposits. Some good building stones come from these areas.

Taking a section across the plain from the north-west highlands to the Cambay coast in the south-east, cutting through the Shetrunji river, the land has a height of about 500 feet in the north-west and breaks rather abruptly to a plain of about 250 feet. Thereafter it steadily maintains the slope towards the coast. On the other hand a section across the district from the Sonrai creek in the north-east to the district boundary in the south-west, including the Shatrunjaya hill shows a land rising from sea level to a height of about 250 feet till it reaches the Shatrunjaya hill where the land abruptly rises to 1,634 feet, then sinks again to a plain of 250 feet, only broken by a few detached hills rising to about 800 feet. The land then gradually slopes south westwards, maintaining a height of 500 feet till a few miles off the district border and near the sea it sinks to 250 feet and less. The inland plain, therefore, is not a stretch of continuous plain land but is broken by the southern range of hills which lies in the south central part of the district almost parallel to the bend of the Cambay coast. It is, therefore, two detached plains joined here and there where the hills are not very high, one lying north of the southern hills and the other south of it.

DRAINAGE : RIVER SYSTEM

The two belts of hill country that cut across the breadth of Kathiawar constitute two distinct water partings. From them as well as the narrow stretch of table land which occupies the centre of the peninsula and forms a connecting link between the two series of hills, flow all the rivers and streams which drain Kathiawar. At first they are swift and clear, gliding along rocky channels between steep banks. The rivers flow from the inner of the two hill tracts outward to all points of the compass and winding sluggishly through the low lying lands of the seaboard enter the sea at points nearly opposite the slopes where they take their rise. Thus in Bhavnagar district which is in the south-east corner of the peninsula they head directly to the Gulf of Cambay in the east or they carry the drainage from the lesser Gir, to the south into the Arabian Sea. Many of the east flowing streams also receive tributaries from the lesser Gir, Lonch and Mordhar hills. These tributaries flow north or north-east to meet the east flowing rivers. From the counter slopes of the opposite chain of hills flow the largest of the rivers of Kathiawar, namely, the Bhadar and the Shetrunji. Rising at almost opposite points, they meet the drainage from the flanks of the connecting link of table land in the centre of the peninsula and skirt the base of their respective ranges and flow through the plains, the Bhadar westwards to the Arabian Sea and the Shetrunji eastwards through the Bhavnagar district to the Gulf of Cambay. Though the rivers pour seawards through turbial floods during the monsoon, the Kathiawar rivers are of inconsiderable size.

The district of Bhavnagar is drained from north-west to south-east except in the Mahuva taluka where it drains south. Most of the rivers of the district flow into the Gulf of Cambay.

The Shetrunji

Rising in the Dundhi hills of the Gir (about 2,110 feet), it has a south-easterly course of about 108 miles, including windings, and flows to Sultanpur where it enters the Gulf of Cambay. Flowing at first in a northerly direction it passes the small cantonment of Dhari, 25 miles from its rise and receives from the left the stream of Sutali. Then bending to the right it takes a generally south-easterly course. On its passage it receives several feeders, among which are the Thebi and Vari on whose banks stands the town of Amreli and the Gagadia, flowing under the walls of Lathi, the one time capital of the small Gohil State of Lathi. It enters the district of Bhavnagar not far from Bhensavadi. About two miles west of Bhensavadi it receives the waters of the Leo of Shel or Gagadia which rises in Gir near Lakha Padar, (662 feet) flows through Khambhaljia (484 feet), Ditla, Samadhiala and Karjala. It enters the district about a mile north of Karjala and flowing in an east south-east direction it cuts the Bhavnagar—Kundla road at Shedhavadar. It then flows close to Krakach where it is joined by two streams having dangerous quick sands and drains a region of nitrous soil whose brackish waters are said to affect the Shetrunji for the rest of its course. At Krakach the river takes a rather sharp south-easterly turn up to Akolda where the plain is about 222 feet above sea level Many small non-perennial streams join the river rising from the southern hills (500-900 feet). Leaving Akolda the river flows through a level plain not more than 250 feet high. North-east of Ramparda it girdles the Datha (1,476 feet) and Palitana hills (1,634 feet). Taking a curve north-east it girdles the northern flanks of the lesser Gir which here rises to a height of 1,325 feet. From Datha to about three miles east of Thorali the river passes through a narrow neck of land between the Palitana hills and the Vadal hills or the hills of the lesser Gir. It once again enters open country (146 feet) beyond Thorali and crossing the Palitana—Thadach road it flows south-east through Lampalia, Makhania and Talaja. About a mile east of Dakana it enters a creek and the Gulf of Cambay in two branches leaving Sultanpur almost a sandy island. During the 58 miles of its course through the district the Shetrunji receives only one tributary of importance, the Shel. The river Shetrunji drains Talaja, Palitana, Gariadhar mahal and Savarkundla.

The Ghelo

Rising in the central highlands (at about 1,000 feet) not far from Phuljar, where the waters of two streams meet, it flows in a south-easterly

direction through the village of Somnath. Three miles south of the village it receives the waters of another stream, zigzags almost east for about four miles and takes a somewhat sharp turn to Badli. Then taking a south, south-easterly turn it receives another tributary south of Limbala. The combined waters flow almost east, under the walls of Gadhada (343 feet), through Adtala, Pipal, Tantania, Lakhanka, Ishvaria, Dared, Melana, Loliyana (188 feet), Hadmatia, Khetatimbi, Navagam and Vallabhipur. From Dared to Vallabhipur it has a south, south-east to east direction. At Navagam it branches into two channels before entering Vallabhipur. Flowing eastwards through Rajpipla it enters the tidal creek which opens out to the Gulf of Cambay near Bhavnagar town. The total length of the Ghelo is about 56 miles and its course in the district is about 45 miles. Its general flow is towards the east.

The Kalubhar

The Kalubhar also rises in the central highlands at Raipur not far from Samadhiala and has a length of about 59 miles. Flowing first in a south-easterly direction it is joined by a stream about a mile south-east of Barvala. Then taking an almost easterly direction it flows through Junavadar and enters the district east of Padapan. In its 41 miles course in the district, it flows east through Patana, Khijadia and Chosla (where a stream from the Kundla hills join it), Limala, Rajpipla, Bhojavadar, Vangadhra, Tarpala, Rajthali (80 feet), the one time capital of the Bhavnagar Gohil chiefs, namely, Umrala and then flows to Ratanpar and Dhamanka. Between Limala and Dhamanka the river is perennial. Flowing south-east through Thapnath and south of Chamardi (361 feet) it bifurcates into two channels, which join again to flow into the tidal creek near Bhavnagar along with Ghelo. The Ranghola rising from the Damnagar hills (300-400 feet) near Tajpur flows north-east till about the village of Ranghola and winds its way to the west to join the Kalubhar along with the Vamar before it empties itself into the creek. The Ranghola has a course of 39 miles in total of which about 28 miles are within the district. Near to the Bhavnagar creek the Kalubhar is joined by several streams rising from the Sihor hills in the south. The Maleshari rises in the Khokhra hills (986 feet) not far from Khokhra Nana and flowing north through Khantadi, Bhikada and Phariadka it crosses Vartej and the Bhavnagar railway station. Taking a north-west direction it flows through Kardej, takes a sharp turn east and winding through a distance of about six miles it empties itself into the Bhavnagar creek along with the Kalubhar. It has a length of about 23 miles and drains the central and eastern part of the district.

The Vagad

The Vagad rises not far from Raipura near Hadmatia and flows through Limbda where the Bhavnagar—Dhandhuka high road crosses it. Flowing

eastwards through mud and swamp it empties into the tidal creek of Bhavnagar to the north of Kalubhar. Its entire course of about 24 miles is within the district.

The Kalbi and Padala

The Padala rises in the central highlands near Jharia and drains the Botad taluka. Crossing the Bhavnagar—Wadhwan rail road it flows south-east through the swamps of Pali and Sarvi and the villages of Rohisala, Mul Dharai and Navi Dharai. For twently-four miles of its course it flows through the district. At Ratanpur it receives the waters of many streams. At Navi Dharai it joins the Kalbi and flows into the Sonrai creek 18 miles further east.

The Keri

The Keri also rises in the same central highlands and flows south of Kalbi. Not far from Ningala Railway station the river flows below the Bhavnagar—Wadhwan railway bridge. At Ratanpur it flows close to Padala and through swamp and marsh flows into the Sonrai creek. A third stream flows into the Sonrai creek north-east of the Kalbi. Rising in the swamps near Kanatalav it flows south-east to the creek.

The Goma

The Goma is a tributary of the Wadhwan Bhadar. It flows through the north-west of the district for about 12 miles in Paliyad. The entire course is about 30 miles. It joins the Bhadar at Ranpur (Surendranagar district).

The Utavli

The Utavli, rising in Jasdan, flows part of its way through the district and again leaves it in the north-east of Kaniard and loses itself in the swamps of Dhandhuka.

The Dhatarvadi—Surajvadi

The Dhatarvadi rises in the Gir, the height of the land here being 1,292—1,450 feet. It enters the district near the village of Khodiana. During its course of about 8 miles in the district it winds through Detad where the plain is between 350-400 feet south of Bhakshi it leaves the district and flows south. Its tributary the Surajvadi joins it south-east of Bhakshi. The Surajvadi rises in the Gir hills south of Bhard and flowing north-east passes the Jikiali temple. It then winds east for about two miles before entering the district and flows past the deserted village of Analgadh. Further flowing south, south-east at a height of 500 feet it goes past Jhabal and taking a more easterly course it flows past the village of Ghania where several water courses join the river. From Ghania it flows almost for about a mile but leaves the district to join the Dhatarvadi river south-east of the village of Bhakshi.

The Malan

The Malan rises in the south-eastern hills at Rabarika at a height of 828 feet and flows south-east. About 6 miles south at Bila, the height is only about 402 feet. Flowing some three miles east, of the Ugalyan hills (518 feet) it passes the villages of Khuntavda, Garas and Sangania on its west bank and Tavida on its east bank before emptying itself into the Mahuva creek west of the port of Mahuva. At the head of the creek is the Jegri island.

The Bagad

The Bagad river rises in the southern hills near Matalpur (789 feet) and flows south-east to Monpur (470 feet), Titodia and Dharai at each of which it is joined by small streams. It continues its way south-east to Kherdi and flows south through Padargadh and Bordi lying on its eastern bank. Taking again a south-easterly direction it flows through Jagdhar on its left bank and Lilvan on its right, till it loses itself in the swamps of Valar and the saltpan in Datha.

CREEKS

The Bhavnagar Creek

The Bhavnagar creek forms a channel between the town and the Gulf of Cambay. It is a safe but winding passage, navigable by large crafts for about five miles or within a mile of the town. At spring tides boats of 3 to 5 tons can pass up the Ghelo river as far as Ghetri, fourteen miles from Bhavnagar. The old Bhavnagar State spent a considerable amount of money for improving the port.

The Sonrai Creek

The Sonrai creek is about 8 miles north of Bhavnagar. It is believed to contain a fine broad channel of various depths for about 4½ miles inland with a good muddy bottom, navigable for boats of 100 to 166 tons. The channel does not dry up like the Dholera creek and is free from mud banks and other serious impediments. The landing place is about four and a half miles from the mouth of the creek and the channel near it holds enough water to keep laden and unladen boats afloat at any time of the tide. In November, December 1822 a nautical survey of this and other creeks was made by Lieutenant Dominicetti of the East India Company's Marine who described it "as bearing from Bhavnagar creek 8¼ north 24 east. It ran west and north-west from the sea upwards of 12 miles for about half of which it was navigable. Its breadth for the first three miles varied from 650 to 800 feet and for the next three miles was about 370 feet. The depth at high water spring tides in the large reach ranged from 39 to 48 feet and at low water from 6 to 15 feet at high tide, it was dry at low water. The perpendicular rise of the tide was 33 feet".

The Mahuva Creek

The Mahuva creek is two miles to the landing at the head of which stands Mahuva. Mahuva is a port for coastal and foreign trade. On the sea shore between Katpar and Nikol is an ancient temple of Bhavani Mata, almost covered by drifting sand.

ISLANDS

Piram is a small narrow island about seven miles south of Gogha, four miles off the coast opposite Hathab and is surrounded by rocky reefs which run two or three miles to the north and south-east and are dry at low water. The surface which is partly drift sand and partly a light arable soil rises on the west side into low cliffs of hardened clays and conglomerate rock. On the sandy knoll in the centre of the island is a light house or a stone tower built on the ruins of an old bastion. Good water is procurable from wells but the island is unhealthy from June till October. Piram is mentioned by the author of the Periplus under the name of Baiones. It was famous as a stronghold of the Gohil chief Mokhdaji who was defeated and slain in 1347 by the troops of Sultan Muhammad Tughluq. It was also interesting from the point of view of fossil remains of some extinct varieties of elephants, rhinoceros, hippopotamus and gigantic fish. The fossils have become scarce since 1855 and are very rarely obtained now.

The part of the island which is always above water stretches half a mile to the north-west of the light house. The rocky reef which surrounds the island runs out furthest to the north and south-east and though this appears steep to when dry at low water, a gradually shoaling sand and clay bank stretches off it on the north, east and south. In the west it is very deep and between the north-west end of the island and Gogha, where at low water the passage is a little more than half a mile wide, there is a depth of 60 fathoms. However, there are very strong eddies and vessels are frequently turned round and become unmanageable. The bottom of this channel is yellow clay. The soil on the island is sandy with low sand hills at the west and north. The base of the island is pudding stone showing at low water at the south end of the reef which ends in a cliff, exposing horizontal strata of pudding stone from one to three feet thick alternately with fine clay only a few inches thick. There is excellent water in a well twenty-six feet deep. So strong are the tides at Piram that in a light wind it is hopeless to keep a boat under control. On the east the island may be reached within two miles, on the north-east not within two miles, on the north not within four miles, as a shoal rocky patch, which is here called Piram shoal, having one fathom only, lies on the north side of the Piram bank. At a short distance to the west of this shoal there is a depth of 30 fathoms. Little or no flood stream is felt on the north of Piram reef but the ebb is very strong.

Mal bank lying in the centre of the upper part of the Gulf is between Tankaria and Bhavnagar. When first surveyed in 1834 it was described as 3 banks, the northern called Mal, the central group of detached banks called Terirao's bank from the name of the surveyors, and a southern one, the Bahmia bank. In 1835 the banks were so changed as to be described as one large bank. This is named Mal bank. It is pear-shaped, the stock to the south. When surveyed in 1835 its length was 16 miles but it is supposed to be increasing southward. In 1852 when the surveying vessel passed from Broach to Gogha it found much shoaler water at the south end of the bank. It is believed that greater deposits have gathered at the south end which by 1882 was marked by a line drawn from Gogha to Dejbara at the back of Dehej sand hills in Mainland Gujarat. The Malcolm Channel is on the west side of the Mal bank. It is quite deep but only the local pilots know the channel well. The sand bank west of the Malcolm's Channel is the Rogno Bhato or the Rhook bank The west half of it is a mangrove swamp and in the other half is sand. The entrance to Bhavnagar creek and Sonrai creek is by the west of this bank. The banks and shoals change much in the gulf and no survey has been conducted in the recent past to record this change.

The Sultanpur island is formed by the forked mouth of the Shetrunji. It is connected to Talaja on the mainland. The off shore Sultanpur shoal consist of several rocky islands made of rock clay and sand.

The Jegri island is formed at the mouth of the river Malan but it is connected to Mahuva on the mainland by road.

RESERVOIRS, LAKES, TANKS

In the north-east of the district the soil is charged with salt and the water obtained by digging is more or less brackish. Almost every village and town has its pond or reservoir holding water through the greater part of the year. During April and May most of these ponds dry up and supplies are drawn from wells dug in the beds of ponds and lined with brick and masonry. Some of the ponds are large enough to deserve special mention.

There are several large tanks south of the Bhavnagar—Rajkot road, namely, from west to east the Ramdhari tank, the Ambla tank, the Valavad tank, and one east of the Sihor hills. The fine artificial lake about five miles in circumference near the city of Bhavnagar is formed by bunding the bed of the Gadhechi river. The water is conveyed to the town in a small channel The Moti tank is to the north-east of the city. The port is supplied by an artificial tank.

In addition to those constructed during the State regime, a number of other tanks were constructed on the formation of the State of Saurashtra which laid special emphasis on the construction of major, medium and minor irrigation works with a view to combat the effects of recurrent famine and

scarcity years. While detailed particulars of these works are given in Chapter IV—Agriculture, under the heading 'Irrigation' the most important among them are Shetrunji, Rojki and Krishnasagar or Ranghola, besides a number of minor tanks constructed after 1947.

Wells and step-wells called *vavs* or *vavdis* are generally built of substantial masonry and are occasionally very elaborate.

On the whole Bhavnagar is well supplied with water. Towards the south of the district water is found very near the surface. Along the coast, however, the water is brackish and charged with salt except where sweet water springs occur.

TIDES

At Gogha the rise and fall of water at ordinary springs is thirty-four feet and at ordinary springs twenty-seven to thirty feet and at neaps twelv to eighteen feet. Through the deep gut between Piram and Kuda point, which at lowest water is a little more than a mile and a half wide, the tide rushed with great speed

Inside the Sultanpur and Gopnath shoals the flood stream runs for hours at neaps after actual high water. The rise and fall at ordinary springs is about sixteer feet, at high springs eighteen to nineteen feet and at neaps nine to ten feet. The rushing tide is called the Bore and goes north of Piram. The Bore is a rapid tide wave forced through a narrow passage over the remains of the ebb tide, the counter action of which gives the waves a steep wall like face. The tides at Bhavnagar creek as predicted for 1966 by the port authorities are as follows.

Date	Time	In metres	In feet
	High water—maximum		
18th August 1966 ..	.. 18.13	11.45	37.6
16th October 1966	.. 05.56	11.44	37.5
	High water—minimum		
15th March 1966	.. 11.38	7.10	23.3
16th March 1966	.. 13.17	7.02	23.0
	Low water—maximum		
21st December 1966	.. 05 40	4.75	15.6
13th May 1966	.. 17.44	4.72	15.5
	Low water—minimum		
16th December 1966	.. 00.43	0.26	00.9
9th March 1966	... 13.40	0.50	1.6

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION

The geological formations in the district of Bhavnagar arranged in order of increasing antiquity are as follows :

Formations	Age	Period
Alluvium	Recent	Post-Tertiary
Miliolite lime-stone	Sub-Recent	Post-Tertiary
Gaj beds	Miocene to Pliocene	Tertiary
Lateritic rocks	Lower Eocene (Sub-nummulitic)	Trappean (Cretaceo-Eocene)
Deccan traps associated with basic and acid trap dykes and inter-trappean beds.	Cretaceo-Eocene	

Deccan Trap—This formation covers almost the whole of the district except the eastern and southern coastal tracts which are covered by Tertiary and Post-Tertiary sediments. The Deccan traps are the lava flows which, in general, are considered to have been emplaced from fissures towards the end of the Mesozoic era. They commonly appear to be horizontally bedded though a gentle tilt towards south as noticed in the Sihor range of hills. The total thickness of the trap in the district is considered to be about 600 metres, while the average thickness of an individual flow may be somewhere near 13 metres. The traps are invariably jointed. Besides sheet joints, more or less parallel to the surface, other vertical or inclined and columnar or prismatic joints, generally at right angles to the bedding planes of the flow, are also observed. The flows vary considerably in composition. The lowermost flows are comparatively more decomposed and appear agglomeratic at places, while the later flows are more hard, compact and are trachytic, felsitic or dioritic with occasional lenticular masses and thin veins of pitchstones. The basaltic flows are generally amygdaloidal, containing geodes and amygdales filled with zeolities, chalcedony, agate and calcite. Scoriaceous breccia agglomerates, tuffs and ashes, etc., are occasionally found interbedded with the flows. It is thus clear that the rocks of Deccan trap episode in the district include various layers of the lava flows such as basalts, dolerites, felsites, granophyre, obsidian, pitchstone, rhyolite, soda felspar rocks, trachyte, diorite, agglomerates, breccias, tuffs and ashes, etc. They have not been mapped separately so far and as such a few of the known occurrences are recorded, such as obsidian and laminated felsites in the hills around Sihor, pitchstones near Asarna and Paliyad and the quartz, felsites and diorities in the hills near Chamardi. The group of isolated hills abruptly rising from the alluvial plains near Chamardi and exhibiting a variety of rock types are considered to be centres of eruption with subsequent magmatic differentiation, similar to those occurring in Girnar hills.

Trap Dykes—The trap flows have been intruded by numerous doleritic dykes forming low knolls, elongated mounds or serrated ridges in the otherwise plain country. There appear to be two sets of intrusions; the dominant one has an east-west trend, while the other exhibits a north-south or north-west-south-east trend. The dykes are more conspicuous in the south-eastern part of the district around Talaja. The contacts of the dykes with the flows are generally distinct. The rocks are mostly compact, greyish green to dark grey in colour and micro-crystalline and sub-ophitic in texture. They show variations in their compositions irrespective of their similar trends, as is noticed in the eight parallel dykes between Dodwa and Umrala. Five of these dykes near Dodwa are fine and compact traps, while those near Gariadhar trending north-east to south-west and running for a length of about one kilometre, are rhyolitic in composition.

Lateritic-Rocks—Laterite forms a continuous band, varying from one to three kilometres in width and extending to a length of about 32 kilometres commencing from east of Adhewada and passing through Budhel, Thordi, Badi towards Morchand. Isolated patches of laterite are also noticed near Bharpur, Mathwada, Talaja, Konjli, Bhanavav and Gundarni in Mahuva taluka. The laterite band fringes around the Deccan basalts and is overlain by the tertiary sediments. The laterite is a soft variegated concretionary, ferruginous clayey rock of red to lavender and grey colour containing a fairly rich proportion of iron, often passing into hematite and red ochres. The average thickness of laterite is about 5 metres. The laterite near Longadi and Talgajarda contain horizons of bauxite.

Gaj Beds—Gaj beds represent the marine sediments deposited between Miocene and Pliocene periods. The extensive deposition of this formation stretches southwards continuously from Akwada up to Mathwada, and is covered by alluvium towards Soshia. An isolated patch of the Gaj bed is also noticed near Unadevi. They are also noticed in the Piram island. The beds everywhere are so nearly horizontal that any continuous veritical section showing the entire thickness of Gaj beds is generally not available. Though an individual section reveals the thickness to be between 12 and 15 metres, the aggregate thickness of Gaj beds is likely to be several hundred metres. The Gaj beds are represented by conglomerate, grits, sandstone, yellowish and bluish clays and marls. Gypsum is associated with clays and marls.

Fossils representing species of *Pecten*, *Cstrea*, *Voluta*, *Echinns*, *Arca*, *Cardium*, *Scalaria*, *Venus*, fragments of *Molar* of *Mastodon*, etc., are noticed associated with the Gaj beds near Akwada, Bhumbli, Gogha, Hathab, Mithivirdi, Unadevi and Piram.

Piram island is a famous locality for the collection of tertiary mammalian fossils since long exhibiting many perfect fossil specimens of several varieties of extinct quadrupeds. The common species are *Probocidia, Ungulata, Crocodalia, Chelinia, Pisces,* etc. Some of the fossils occurring in the Piram island, namely, ***Brahmatherium*** allied to *Sivatherium Dinotherium Indicum* are significant as they are not at all reported anywhere in the Siwalik belts in the Himalayan range. It will not be out of place to mention that *Brahmatherium* forms a link between the ruminants and large pachyderms. It was, in palaeontological parlance, a *synthetic type,* i. e., the early primitive animals that combined in them the characters of several distinct genera which sprang out of them in the process of further evolution. The other extraordinary discovery was that of bones and portions of the carapace of a giant tortoise, *Colossochelys atlas,* having a length of more than six metres. The peculiar structure of the tertiary beds near Gogha has attracted the attention of geologists due to the occurrence of natural gas in the vicinity and the possibility of finding oil bearing horizons in the tertiary sediments.

Milolite and Alluvium—Under this heading are included marine and sub-aerial deposits including soil. Among the former are the miliolite and among the aeolian or sub-aerial accumulations are the sand dunes at Piram and other places along the coasts. The marine lime-stones, sometimes interbedded with sandstones, are known as miliolite lime-stones. The name is derived from the foraminifer miliolite which forms the bulk of the rock. The rocks form the bluffs and cliffs along the coast and extend someway inland. A good exposure of these is noticed around Gopnath and Mahuva.

Alluvium includes a variety of deposits, e. g., sand dunes, tidal mud flats, raised beaches and fresh water alluvium. Sand dunes are common in the vicinity of coasts. Fresh water alluvium is observed along the river valleys and forms a thick blanket near Gogha, Bhavnagar, Vartej. Sihor, Sanosara, Talaja and also along the southern coastal tract.

Earthquakes—Due to the proximity of the earthquake region of Kutch, the district has experienced earthquake tremors of milder intensity from time to time, the most important being a series of tremors experienced near Paliyad in Botad taluka between 26th June to 15th August, 1938. During the Paliyad earthquake, cracks were developed even in *pucca* buildings. Another reported occurrence of earthquake in the district was near Rampur situated about 20 km. from Paliyad.

Useful Minerals and Rocks

Abrasives—Agate, chert, flint, etc., suitable for use in rotating ball mills for grinding rocks, ores, ochres, clays, etc., are available in large

quantities near Lakhanka, between Badi—Chhaya and Rampur and are locally worked.

Bauxite—A few horizons of bauxite are associated with the laterite near Longadi, Talgajarda, west of Gogha and near Bhavnagar. The deposits near Longadi appear to be promising.

Building Materials—Building clays for the manufacture of bricks are found in the river alluvium almost throughout the district. Laterite is easily dressed when freshly quarried, but hardens on exposure and forms a fairly durable stone. A greater part of the district is covered by traps which being dense, hard and durable, yield good building material, road metal, railway ballast, concrete aggregates and are worked at different places in the district. The coarse crystalline diabase in Thapnath hill near Sihor, if trimmed and polished, can be used as a beautiful ornamental stone. The garnophyre from Chogath is also suitable for similar purposes.

Calcite—The most important deposits in the form of veins occur at Gadhakda in Kundla taluka. Of these, the biggest vein occurring about 800 metres S. S. W. of Ramgadh is about 2·4 km. long. It is estimated that about 28,000 tons of calcite could be obtained up to a depth of five metres alone. Some of the veins near Ramgadh may yield small quantities of clear transparent calcite suitable for optical purposes. Numerous small calcite stringers occur in traps in the Palitana taluka, particularly to the east of Thadach.

Clays—Various types of clays are associated with lateritic rocks and Gaj beds at many places in the district. The main types are fire-clays, bentonite and fuller's earth. Bentonite is used mostly for reconditioning moulding sands, for drilling muds and in cosmetics and medicines. Fire-clay is used for the manufacture of varied types of refractory and ceramic wares, etc., and the fuller's earth is used for absorbing colouring matter from oils, fats and greases. The variegated clays found in the Gaj beds are quarried at a number of places near Bhavnagar, Talaja and Gogha. The clays are thinly bedded and are occasionally associated with sporadic lumps of tabular crystals of fibrous gypsum. The clay when freshly dug is soft and plastic but becomes hard and brittle on drying. This material locally known as 'Chandani' is sold as yellow bentonite. Clays associated with the lateritic rocks are quarried near Budhel, Thoradi, Tagadi, Rajpura, Morchand and Chitra. They assume a thickness of 5 to 7 metres and lie below an overburden of soil, lateritic material or variegated gritty clays, varying from three to five metres. The colour of these clays varies considerably being greenish white, grey, greyish white, pink, milky white, etc. It is soft and absolutely free from sand grains. Others of the refractory type. are sold as fire-clay. The material is locally known as *bhutada*.

Lothomargic clay occurs both in lateritic rocks and in the Gaj beds. It is white, soft, non-plastic, grit-free and is associated with variegated or lavender coloured clays and is shipped usually to Bombay for the manufacture of activated fuller's earth. They are quarried near Mokhda temple and Lakhanka.

Coal—Thin lenses of carbonaceous matter are reported to have been encountered at a depth of about 90 metres in a bore hole near Gogha. They are till now not considered to be of any economic significance.

Gypsum—Gypseous clays occur near Chitra, Budhel and Tagadi. The mineral occurs as platy fibrous crystals embedded sporadically in Gaj clays, seldom exceeding two to three per cent of the entire bulk of the clays.

Iron-ore—Pockets and lenses of hematite occur sporadically in the 32 km. long belt of lateritic rock in the district. The ore, however, has no economic significance.

Ilmenite—Small quantities of ilmenite are noticed in the beach sands near Gopnath, but they are not of economic value.

Lime-stone—Miliolite lime-stones are worked at Piparala and Sanosra in Sihor taluka, Chogath in Umrala Peta mahal, Methala in Talaja taluka, Naip, Gujarda, Khared and Nesvad in Mahuva taluka for lime burning.

Mineral Pigments (Ochres)—Ochres are naturally coloured mineral pigments, used for the manufacture of paints and for tinting ceramic goods, cement, linoleum, rubber, wood, etc. Deposits of yellow and red ochres occur in a small hill west of Lakhanka, Alapur, near Tagadi and south of Thoradi.

Moulding Sand—Fine yellow moulding sand formed due to the weathering of Gaj sandstones is noticed in stream beds near Malanka and Tarsamia in Bhavnagar taluka and Gogha and Kuda in the Gogha mahal and could be marked to a depth of 12 metres. Large reserves of the material are found to be present in the area. The moulding sand is of a superior quality and is used in foundries.

The important minerals worked in the district were bentonite, building stone, fuller's earth, lime-stone, road metal and moulding sand. In 1962 the production of building stone was 323,607 tonnes, that of bentonite 4,572 tonnes, fuller's earth 2,133 tonnes and lime-stone 2,032 tonnes. Other minerals such as road metal and moulding sand accounted for 71,160 and 76,203 tonnes respectively. Of the above mentioned minerals whose total value estimated in terms of rupees was Rs. 610,140, building stone accounted for Rs. 477,750. The second important mineral in this category was moulding stone valued at Rs. 52,500, followed by road metal (Rs. 30,000) and bentonite (Rs. 27,000).

Natural Gas—Occurrence of natural gas around Gogha associated with tertiary sediment has been known since long. A few shallow test bores near Gogha have proved the existence of natural gas under pressure at depths of about 270, 280 and 340 metres. The proximity of the oil bearing tertiary beds in the vicinity has raised hopes about the possibility of the presence of similar oil bearing horizons near Gogha for which tests are being carried out.

Salt—Common salt in this district is manufactured from sea water by the solar evaporation method usually, near Bhavnagar and Port Albert Victor. The annual production on an average is of the order of 95,000 tons.

Semi Precious Stones—Pebbles of agate, chalcedony, flint, jasper, etc., dislodged from Gam conglomerates due to weathering are strewn along the hill slopes west of Lakhanka. Agate-bearing conglomerate bed, about five metres in thickness, forms the crest of the ridge running from Bedi to Chhaya, a distance of about 10 km.

A conspicuous float of agate pebbles is noticed among the western flank of the ridge. The agate pebbles are generally small but a few selected one can be used as semi-precious stones. Other pebbles may be suitable for ball-mills.

Soils—A thick spread of black cotton soil is noticed covering the low lands of Bhavnagar and Gogha. Red and variegated earthy soil is generally associated with the belt of laterite between Bhavnagar and Morchand which is also suitable for cultivation. The mud flats along the coast and creeks, however, are highly saline and barren. Concretions of *kankar* are generally associated with the black cotton soil all over the area.

Water Supply- Adequate supply of sub-surface water for domestic needs are available in the region covered by the Deccan trap. The presence of a system of joints, porous ash and red bole beds are responsible for the easy percolation of water. Association of dykes also augments the yield of water. Average yield around Bhavnagar is of the order of 8,000 litres per hour. Conglomerates, grits and coarse sandstones of the Gaj beds form good acquifers but in a majority of cases the water is reported to be saline and is not useful for agricultural purposes. However, wells situated at the junction of the Gaj beds and Deccan trap yield copious supply of potable water. In the regions covered with alluvium and miliolites generally abundant water is available within a shallow depth for domestic consumption and irrigation except in the areas with low lying tidal flats along the coast.

FOREST

Out of the total area of 12,108 sq. km. in the district, an area of about 136 sq. km. is covered by forest which can be classified as dry deciduous scrub forest. Due to the lack of a systematic and scientific management of

the forest in the past, the growth have suffered severely with the result that only the hilly areas are generally clad with a good tree-growth. Areas easily accessible have a scattered tree-growth which is stunted and malformed. Flat areas without tree-growth have been turned into *vidis* or waste lands. Forest worth the name can be found in hilly areas near Sihor, Palitana, Mitiyala and Bhavnagar.

SPECIES OF TREES

The following species are prominently noticed in this forest :

Acacia senegal (gorad), acacia arabica (babul), gymnosporia montana (viklo), balanites roxburghii (tingnol), boswellia serrata rosel (salai), anogeissus latifolia (dhavdo), terminalia tomentosa (sajad), etc. Prosopis juliflora (gando baval) has been successfully introduced in these areas especially in the salty waste lands and a good plantation of these are being raised in many places. *Casuarina equisetifolia* (*saru*) has been planted in the coastal tracts near about Hathab, and Methla with appreciable results. Greater protection and artificial regeneration through scientific management has gone a long way in improving these hitherto neglected forests. Apart from *saru* and *gando baval, teak, deshi babul, arthi, arduso, semal,* etc., are being raised in various places. Along the coast mangrove species have been found to be thriving and steps are being taken to bring them under scientific management.

FRUIT TREES

Mango, coconut, pomegranate and guava are the most important species. The district is particularly famous for mangoes and pomegranates.

Mango

This fruit is grown in some parts of the district where good mango gardens are found in Hathab, Koliyak, Mahuva, Vartej, Songadh and Kundla. Mahuva is known for its special variety called *Jamadar* akin to Alphonso which is very delicious in taste and has no fibre. This variety of mango can be preserved for a fairly long period.

Cocount

Coconut trees have been raised on a large scale on the coastal tracts near Mahuva, Hathab and Bhavnagar. Mahuva coconut plantations are particularly well-known.

Pomegranate

The district is well-known for the local and *Dholka* varieties of pomegranates. The fruit is grown near Vartej, Kobdi and Songadh and exported in large quantities during the season. Flat deep and clayey soil with a certain amount of salty crust appears to be very favourable for its growth.

Guava

It is especially grown in gardens near Kamlej and Kardej during the winter season. The *Dholka* variety of guavas is very famous. Locally known as *Jamful*, this fruit is exported outside the State in large quantities.

Chikoo

Grown in areas near Mahuva, Talaja, Bhavnagar and Kundla, the *Kalipatti* variety of fruit which grows on trees having blackish leaves, is popular on account of its delicious taste. The fruit is used mostly for local consumption in the district.

Banana

Bananas are grown in areas near Mahuva, Bhavnagar and Talaja. The *Lokhandi* tall variety of bananas is the most popular variety. The Basarai variety of bananas is also famous. They are about 4" to 5" long. They are very much in demand on account of their taste and quality. The fruit is consumed mostly in the district.

Arecanut

Sopari or Arecanut is grown in Mahuva orchards, though to a very small extent and hardly in quantities sufficient even for local consumption.

Papaiya

The principal famous varieties of *papaiya* are the 'Washington' and 'Honey Dew'.

WILD ANIMALS

Though the district does not have much area under forest, it still has wild animals like lion, panther, soptled deer, nilgai, barking deer, wild boar, hyaena, wolf, jackal, wild cat, rabbit, porcupine, hedge-hog and mongoose. Black mouthed monkeys though more or less found in the entire district, are especially found in large numbers in Mahuva, Gadhada and Kundla.

Lion

Panthera Leopersica (Meyer)—A few lions have strayed from Gir forests towards Mitiyala and have more or less settled down there. It is reported that the number of such lions is more or less constant probably due to the fact that due to water facilities, lions from Gir occasionally come to Mitiyala side. It has been reported that lions of this side are rather longer than those found in Sasan and hence they are known as *Velor* whereas those in Sasan are known as *Gadhai*.

Panther

Panthera pardus Fuoca (Meyer)—Panthers used to be found in abundance in the past but their number has declined of late. With the increase

in population and consequent decrease in forest area which in fact has more or less receded to the hills, the movements of wild animals were restricted to a smaller region. Further, during the days of princely rule prior to the formation of Saurashtra State, hunting as a princely pastime was in great vogue and it probably resulted in an appreciable decrease of panther population in this district. At present, shooting of panthers is permitted only to a limited extent on permits issued by the Chief Conservator of Forests. The longest panther shot in this district hitherto (1959) measured about 2 metres. It is a sleek, short-haired animal with a fulvous coat marked with close-set and small black spots. The panther is very daring, clever and cunning. Some say, there are two kinds of panthers, viz., (i) small or dog panthers *Kutta Dipdo* and (ii) large or *Si-dipdo*. The panther will kill anything it can overpower but it likes dog the most, the other animals in preference being donkey, goat, domestic animals, etc. The panther is perhaps the most daring of Indian wild animals and when wounded most dangerous. It is not easily disturbed by men and shows great fearlessness and daring in catching his prey. The panther as a rule does not wander so much as a lion. It has got an amazing power of climbing trees with the kill. If the panther does not want to eat the kill, it either covers it under shrubs or bushes or hides it on the branch of a tree so that vultures may not spot it. It likes meat most when rotten. Panthers are mostly found alone and they breed all the year round giving birth to two to four cubs at a time.

Hyaena

Hyaena-hyaena (Linnaeus)—The local name of this animal is ***Zarakh***. It is like a scavenger (i.e., animal feeding on carrion) and is found in good number in the district. Its fat is used for curing gout and rheumatism. ***Zarakh***, is about 1·5 metres in length. Males are bigger than females. In cold whether when its coat is in good order, hyaena is rather handsome to look at. It has a massive head with strong and sturdy fore-limbs but has weak and drooping hind quarters. Its colour varies from grey to dirty white and it has got well defined blackish stripes over the body. It has a powerful jaw. It prefers to stay in a cave amongst rocks or holes dug in the hill. It usually comes out for search of food at night. Its sense of smell is very keen. It likes bones and dead animals and will not ordinarily seek sheep or goat. It makes a weird speech and gives a peculiar laughing chatter. Hyaenas are found in pairs. The female gives birth to three to four cubs at a time. Its life-span is about 15 years. There is a local belief that hyaena's fresh blood is a remedy for T. B. in initial stages. It is rumoured that the local villagers who suffer from T. B. kill hyaenas and drink two to three glasses of its fresh warm blood

Wolf

Canis pallipes—This animal is common in grassy plains of Nesda, Dhandhali, Bhal, Kundla, etc. Wolves are generally found in a flock of three

to five. It is bold enough to attack sheep during day time even in the presence of a shepherd. Locally known as *Nar*, the wolf is about 1 metre in length. Its colour is sandy fawn or grey. It is generally found in plains, and lives in caves, cavities in rocks, etc. It hunts by day or by night. A wolf many a time carries off children when in great hunger. In the forest it hunts hare, fox, gazelle, etc. Many a time they hunt in groups of seven. These are called *satnari*. The female bears four to six cubs at a time. The life-span of a wolf is about 15 years.

Jackal

Canis aureus (Linnaeus)—This is smaller than the wolf. It is found both in forests as well as in grassy areas. It has a thick short tail and its colour is grey with a black tinge. It lives near towns and villages in cultivated fields. It usually comes out at dusk. Two or more are found together. It attacks rabbits, fowls, small birds, etc., and sometimes also lambs, sickly goat, etc. It is very fond of sugarcane and water melons and does much damage to the farmer. Jackal is proverbially looked upon as a very cunning animal It has a life-span of about 12 years.

Fox

Vulpes Bengalensis (Shaw)- It is a small good looking animal living in the waste lands of the district in burrows. It is more or less of the same size as a common dog but is a little longish with a bush of furry tail. It preys on small birds and their eggs. It prefers reptiles, insects and small mammals as food. It also eats *bor* fruit and melons in the season. It sleeps by day and comes out in search of food at dusk. It gives a peculiar chattering bark repeated three to four times Whenever followed by an enemy, its speed and dexterous way to twist and turn and double in course come to its rescue for its escape. It breeds in the cold season and gives birth to about four cubs at a time. Its life-span is about 12 years. It is a good friend of the farmer as it destroys rats, etc.

Badger

Mellivora indica (Kerr)-- It is locally known as *Ghorkhodi*, because of its habit of digging up buried corpses. Being nocturnal in habit, it is rarely seen during day time. It is generally confined to the Mitiyala area in the district. It walks ordinarily on its two hind legs and while running it runs on all fours. There is a striking difference in colour in the dorsal and ventral surface Nether parts of face, throat, chest, belly, etc., are deep black, while the upper portion is greyish. It has no exte nal ears.

Ratel

Ratel resembles a bear in gait and takes gambols and somersaults. It is purely carnivorous and preys on mammals, birds, insects and reptiles. It

digs out corpses and devours them. It is very bold and does not hesitate to attack a man in self-defence.

Wild Cat

Felis chaus Guldenstaedt—A very beautiful and small animal, found mostly in forest area and its outskirts. It is shy and swift. It lives on rodents, birds and their eggs.

Wild Boar

Sus scrofa (Linnaeus)—Locally known as *Bhund* or *Dukkar*, it is a destructive animal so far as agricultural crops are concerned. Population of wild boar has decreased considerably because of unrestricted shooting in the past. It likes swamps and muddy areas. It is much sought for, for its fat and pork.

Spotted Deer

Cervus axis is generally found in the forests near Bhavnagar and Mitiyala.

Sambhar

Cervus unicolor is rarely found in the forests of the district.

Blue Bull

Boselaphustragocamelus (Pallas)—*Nilgai*, as it is locally known, is found in good number in the forests as well as in grassy lands of the district. It has secured a spontaneous popular protection because it is looked upon as a cow.

Gazelle

Gazelle benneti—Locally known as *Chinkarah*, it is small and smart and of the size of a goat. Its number is on the decline now.

Black Buck

Antilope cervicapra (Linnaeus)—Locally known as *Kaliar* is a magnificent animal to look at and grazes in herds in open grounds. The buck has magnificent horns and has blackish coat of fur on its back and side; the doe is black in colour. It is a preserved animal under the Wild Life Preservation Act. It is reported that its number is increasing. It is found in the Bhal, Kundla, Mahuva talukas. The black buck is found in big herds of 20 to 30. Its speed is its protection. When alarmed it bounds in the air in a series of leaps. It breeds mainly between February and March and during the breeding seasons the buck is said to be fighting to death for the sake of mastery over a doe. The bucks during the breeding season strut about with a courting pose with a peculiar mincing gait turning their head well back.

Porcupine

Hystrix indica (Kerr)—Locally known as *Shedhadi* or *Shahudi*, this animal is harmful to forests. It damages small seedlings by eating their roots. It lives in burrows or in good shelter and is fond of melon and other fruits.

When chased by enemies porcupines run back and shoot their prickly quills, which are very dangerous, at the enemy. Such broken quills have been found in the bodies of other carnivorous animals like panther and lion. The blood and meat of porcupines are said to be very good for the health and growth of colts and many Kathis who used to breed good horses used to give them to young colts.

Hedge Hog

Hemiechinus auritus collaris (Grey)—Locally known as *Sheva* is common in the forests and grassy areas of the district. It is stated that smoke caused by the burning of its bristles has a good medicinal value.

BIRDS

Apart from common birds like crows, parrots, house-sparrows, mynas, *kabar*, cuckoos, pigeons, etc., important species like *bulbul* (*pyconotus sp.*), green pigeons (*treron phoenicoptera chlorigaster*, Blyth), *kunj* (eastern common crane), *ghorad* (great Indian bustard *aredotis nigriceps*), partridges (*francolinus spp.* '*titar*') sandgrouse, baya (*Ploceus philippinus*) cotton teal (*nettapus sp.*), snipe (*gallingo spp.*), green bee-eater (*merops sp.*), cattle egret (*babulous sp.*), etc., are also met with in the forest-clad and isolated areas throughout the district in different parts of the year.

Out of these species the Great Indian Bustard (ghorad) *(ardectis nigriceps vigors)*, due to careless and wanton destruction during the past, has dwindled in number considerably. This bird which is quite useful has been offered a legal protection by declaring it a 'protected bird'. It is found in the Bhal, Datha, Vadohi, Kundla, etc., more conspicuously during the winter season.

Peacock

Pavo Cristatus—Locally known as *Mor* if male and *Dhel* if female, this bird has replaced swan as the carrier of Saraswati, the goddess of learning. Peacock has been the most popular and widely accepted theme of expression in classical literature and folklore as well as in architecture because of its innate beauty of colours and form. The sweeping and graceful colours of its neck, body and plumage, artistic features, its melodious voice and its unique dance has endeared peacock to the people of India and made it the 'National Bird' of India. There will hardly be a village which has not peacock as one of its denizens.

Kunj

Eastern common crane, *grus lilfordi sharpe*—It is also a common bird seen in the coastal and marshy areas like Hatl ab, Gopnath, Mahuva, etc. It is seen in fairly large numbers during October to March-April. After the onset of the summer season, they go back to their northern breeding grounds of Tibet, China, Siberia, etc. It is interesting to watch their flock near ponds

feasting upon insects, cereals, nuts, green twigs, etc., with quite frequent grounding, suddenly taking off even on a slight alarm into a gradual caravan like formation, high up in the air.

Bulbul

Pyconotus sp.—Especially the one with a red patch under the tail, is seen commonly in the district. Its nests of cup-like formation are a common sight.

Sandgrouse

Pterocles exustus erlangeri neumann—Locally known as *Baters*, this bird is common in the forest areas of Mitiyala, Sihor, Palitana and other grasslands of the district.

Baya

Ploceus philippinus—The weaver bird, locally termed *Sughri* is common in the district. Its well-known nests are found in bushes, abandoned structures, well, etc.

Green pigeon

Treron phoenicoptera chlorigaster (Blyth)—Commonly known as *Hariyal* this bird was once quite common in Palitana and Mitiyala forests. But at present it has become very rare.

Common teal

Nettapus coromant delianus—Commonly called *Girja*, this bird is somewhat larger than a pigeon. It is a water-bird and is often seen in the ponds and tanks near Gopnath, Koliak, Ratanpur, Mahuva and Doliya in the district, especially during winter.

Nukhta

Sakirdiornis melantus—Commonly termed as *Nakta*, this bird is also a water-bird of importance. It is seen often after the monsoon in the bushes of the forest areas of Sihor, Palitana and Mitiyala.

Egret

Especially cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus* Boddaert) is common throughout the district. It is a very useful bird to the farmers as it eats up harmful insects and pests. It generally builds nest during the monsoon and early winter. The nests neither of a tidy appearance nor of artistic construction, are often on the top of tree groves.

Partridges

Francolinus sp.—Locally called *titar*, is common throughout the Mitiyala and Palitana forest areas and other grasslands of the district. The common grey partridge which is a hardy bird, is seen more often than the painted partridge.

Francolinus pictus is a bird offering a very good game because of its characteristic manouvering and the nature of its habit. It breeds during the rainy season.

Green bee eater

Merops orientalis Lalham—Locally known as *Nano Patrangiyo*, this is a beautiful little bird found almost throughout the district. During the winter season it is seen in larger numbers. It is a good sight to see these birds perched on telegraph and electric wires.

SNAKES

Non-Poisonous

FAMILY : TYPHLOPIDAE

Typhlops sp.—This small blind snake is found in the hilly region which is full of decomposed leaves. It is brownish in colour and the scales on its body are imbricate. It is a harmless snake growing to about ·2 metres in length and feeding on rotting material as well as insects in the decomposed leaves.

FAMILY : BOIDAE

Eryx conicus - Also found in this region, this variety is mistaken to have two heads because of its thick tail. It lives in sandy or reddish soil. It is sluggish, grows to about ·9 metre and is brown in colour with deep brown irregular patches.

Python molurus—It is common in this district and has been often spotted in the forests round about Jasdan. It grows to about 4·6 metres and is brown in colour with pinkish patches all over. It is known to frequent local hills with rocks, green vegetation and some water reservoirs. It usually kills by constriction.

FAMILY : COLUBRIDAE

Oligodon sp.—This snake which grows to a length of about ·6 metre is brown in colour with a faint chocolate coloured stripes on the body. It is found near human habitations in gardens and often near door steps. It is harmless. It has often been mistaken to be the common krait.

Lycodon aulicus—Is also found in this region.

Natrix piscator—This chequered black snake is found all over the district near dirty ponds and rivers. It grows to about 1·2 metres with an ash coloured body on which are present chequered black squares and stripes. Often times the ash colour takes an olive like. It feeds on frogs in the water. It bites fiercely.

Ptyas mucosus - This rat snake is found all over the State and grows to a length of about 3 metres. It is slightly yellow in colour with patches of deep brown and black towards the tail end. It is a useful snake as it is seen to control rats. It often stays on trees.

Chrysopelea ornata, *Mascropisthodon plumbicolor* have been noted in this area.

Poisonous

FAMILY : ELAPIDAE

Naja naja—This snake is common all over the district. It is found in fields and in forests alike. People fear it much and worship it. On the hood of this snake one may notice binocular shaped mark or no mark at all. The poison of this snake is neuro-toxic.

Bungarus caeruleus—This is a light brown snake with a pink abdomen. *Coluber helena* is also found.

FAMILY : VIPERIDAE

Vipera russelli—This is common. It is locally known as *kodio*. It is a lethargic snake growing about 1·2 metres and has a greenish brown body with deep brown or black spots in three rows on the dorsal side It bites very fiercely and the poison causes a burning pain and coagulation of blood.

Echis carinatus—This snake is reported to be found more round about stony regions, and local people call it *nagin*. It often sits forming a figure of '8' and makes a sound by rubbing scales. It grows to about 25 cm. in length and often strikes while one is moving near stones. It is very much feared on this side.

FAMILY : HYDROPHINAE

Hydrophis sp. and *Enhydrina sp.* are reported from the sea beaches near Hathab on the sea coast of Bhavnagar.

FISH

The following varieties of fishes are available at Bhavnagar and other nearby ports :

Scientific name	English name	Local name
Horpodon neherius	Bombay duck	*Bumla*
Pseudoscioena diacanthus	Jew fish	*Ghol*
Polynemus indicus	Thread fin	*Dara*
Pristopomas Spp.	Jewfish	*Karkara*
Penaeus Spp.	Prawn	*Zinga*
Boleophthalmus	Mud skipper	*Levta*
Charcarias Spp.	Shark	*Magra*

Fishing in this area is done generally throughout the year.

CLIMATE

Climate—The climate of this district is characterised by a hot summer and general dryness except in the coastal regions The year may be divided

into four seasons. The cold season from December to February is followed by the hot season from March to May. June to September is the south-west monsoon season and the two months October and November form the post-monsoon season.

Rainfall—Records of rainfall in the district are available for five stations, for periods ranging from 69 to 84 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in Statements I·2 and I·3 at the end. The annual rainfall in the district is 598·4 mm. (23·56"). About 91 per cent of the annual rainfall in the district is received during the south-west monsoon months June to September, July being the rainiest month. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is large. During the fifty year period from 1901 to 1950 the highest annual rainfall amounting to 195 per cent of the normal occurred in the year 1947 while 1918 was the year with the lowest annual rainfall which was only 32 per cent of the normal. During this fifty year period the annual rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 12 years. Three consecutive years of such a low rainfall occurred twice during this period in the district. Even for 4 and 5 consecutive years, such a low rainfall has been recorded once or twice at a few of the stations. It will be seen from Statement I·2 that the annual rainfall in the district varied between 300 and 800 mm. (11·81" and 31·50") in 36 years out of 50. On an average there are 31 rainy days (i. e.. days with rainfall of 2·5 mm. 10 cents or more each day) in a year in the district. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 508·0 mm. (20·00") at Palitana on June 12, 1913.

Temperature—There are two meteorological observatories in the district, one at Bhavnagar and the other at Mahuva. The records of these observatories may be taken as representative of the meteorological conditions prevailing in the district as a whole. The period from March to May is one of continuous rise in temperature. May is generally the hottest month, the mean daily maximum temperature at Bhavnagar being 40·7°C (105·3°F) and that at Mahuva, 35·9°C (96·6°F). Hot scorching winds blow during the summer season and day temperature of the order of 40° to 43°C (104·0° to 109·4°F) is quite common. The heat particularly in the interior of the district is intense and on some days the day temperature may go up to 46° or 47°C (114·8° or 116·6°F) in the summer season. In the southern coastal region the heat is not as intense as in the interior owing to the proximity of the sea and the prevalence of sea breezes. Thundershowers which occur on some days during the pre-monsoon period in the afternoons bring welcome relief. With the onset of the south-west monsoon by about the middle of June and sometimes much later the day temperatures decrease a little. With the progress of the season, however, the days become cooler. After mid-September, day temperatures increase and a secondary maximum in day

temperatures is reached in October. However, the nights become progressively cooler. After mid-November both day and night temperatures begin to decrease till January which is the coldest month, when the mean daily maximum temperature is about 29° to 30°C (84·2° to 86·0°F) and the mean daily minimum about 12° to 15°C (53·6° to 59·0°F). In association with cold waves which sometimes affect the district in the rear of western disturbances which pass across North India during the cold season, the minimum temperature in the interior of the district sometimes drops down near to the freezing point of water and frosts may occur. In the southern coastal parts of the district, however, the minimum temperature even during cold waves seldom goes below 8°C (46·4°F).

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Bhavnagar and Mahuva was 46·7°C (116·1°F) on May 17, 1912 and 45·0°C (113·0°F) on April 24, 1954 respectively. The lowest minimum temperature at Bhavnagar was 0·6°C (33·1°F) on January 31, 1929 and 7·8°C (46·0°F) on January 10, 1954 at Mahuva.

Humidity—During the south-west monsoon season the relative humidity is generally high, being over 60 per cent in the northern parts of the district and over 80 per cent in the southern parts near the coast. In the rest of the year the air is comparatively dry and the relative humidity in the afternoon especially in the northern and interior parts of the district ranges between 20 and 30 per cent and about 50 to 60 per cent in the coastal regions.

Cloudiness—The sky generally remains heavily clouded to overcast on many days during the south-west monsoon season. In the rest of the year the sky is generally clear or at times slightly clouded. But on a few days in the winter season sky tends to become cloudy when the district is affected by western disturbances passing across North India.

Winds—Winds are generally light but become more forceful during the latter part of the summer season and the south-west monsoon season. Winds blow mainly from directions between north-west and north-east during the period October to April and mostly from the south-west or west during the south-west monsoon season.

Storms—In the post-monsoon months and to a lesser extent in May and June, storms and depressions from the Arabian Sea sometimes reach the district and its neighbourhood causing gusty winds and widespread heavy rain. Thunderstorms have the highest incidence in June and lesser in the monsoon.

Statements I·4, I·6 and I·8 giving the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena for Bhavnagar, and Statements I·5, I·7 and I·9 giving similar data for Mahuva are given at the end.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT

Normals and Extremes

Station		Number of years of data		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Bhavnagar	..	50	a	3.1	2.0	2.5	8.6	9.7	92.7	222.3	142.7	106.2
			b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	4.3	10.0	7.1	5.4
Palitana	..	50	a	2.8	1.5	1.8	9.1	12.7	95.5	232.4	112.3	112.5
			b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	4.6	10.3	7.3	5.9
Songadh ..	..	50	a	1 8	1.3	1.8	7.9	8.6	89.7	211.1	122.2	106.4
			b	0.2	0 2	0.2	0.2	0.6	4.3	9.8	7.2	5.5
Mahuva	..	50	a	1.0	1.3	1.0	4.3	6.3	112 5	215.9	105.9	90.9
			b	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	5.2	11.3	8.5	5.0
Gogha	..	50	a	3.3	1.8	1.0	6.1	10.2	94.7	226.8	133.1	104.9
			b	0.2	0.1	0.1	0 2	0.4	4.4	10.7	8 0	5.2
Bhavnagar (district)	..		a	2.4	1.6	1.6	7.2	9.5	97.0	221 7	123.2	104.2
			b	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	4.6	10.4	7.6	5.4

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of

* Based on all available data up to 1957.

**Years given in brackets.

I·2

of Rainfall

October	November	December	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year**	Lowest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year**	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours* Amount (mm.)	Date
24·4	4·6	1·3	620·1	218	30	306·6	1947 April 18
0·9	0·3	0.1	39·7	(1947)	(1918)		
25·7	8·1	1·5	615·9	243	17	508·0	1913 June 12
1·4	0·4	0·1	31·6	(1945)	(1918)		
22·1	3·8	1·5	578·2	190	30	261·6	1891 September 20
1·1	0·3	0·2	29·8	(1917)	(1918)		
23·1	6·6	1·3	570·1	198	24	384·1	1891 July 28
1·0	0·4	0·1	32·4	(1913)	(1918)		
17·8	6·9	1·3	607·9	204	23	335·3	1939 August 26
1·	0·3	0·1	30·7	(1945)	(1948)		
22·6	6·0	1·4	598·4	195	32		
1·1	0·3	0·1	30·9	(1947)	(1918)		

2.5 m.m. or more).

STATEMENT I·3

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District

(Data 1901—1950)

Range in mm.	Number of years	Range in mm.	Number of years
101—200 ..	1	601—700	8
201—300 ..	4	701—800	3
301—400 ..	3	801—900	4
401—500 ..	6	901—1,000	2
501—600 ..	16	1,001—1,100	1
		1,101—1,200	2

STATEMENT I·4

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

(BHAVNAGAR)

Month	Mean daily maximum temperature °C	Mean daily minimum temperature °C	Highest maximum ever recorded °C	Highest maximum ever recorded Date	Lowest minimum ever recorded °C	Lowest minimum ever recorded Date	Relative humidity 0830	Relative humidity 1730*
January ..	28·8	12·2	35 0	1926 Jan 16	0·6	1929 Jan. 31	47	33
February ..	30·8	14·2	39 4	1953 Feb. 28	2·8	1929 Feb. 1	46	23
March ..	35 5	18·7	43·3	1910 Mar. 3	8·3	1905 March 2	46	22
April ..	38·9	23·1	45·0	1900 April 20	12·8	1903 April 3	50	27
May ..	40·7	25·7	46·7	1912 May 17	19·4	1917 May 16	61	36
June ..	37·7	26·0	45·0	1901 June 10	20.6	1903 June 16	67	50
July ..	33·7	25·7	40 0	1949 July 2	21·6	1960 July 25	77	67
August ..	32·7	24·8	38·9	1902 Aug. 3	21·7	1903 Aug. 30	77	66
September ..	33·4	23·9	41·1	1951 Sep. 30	20·6	1935 Sep. 26	76	61
October ..	35·4	21·6	41·1	1951 Oct. 5	13·3	1916 Oct. 31	60	37
November ..	32·6	16·0	38·3	1908 Nov. 1	6·1	1938 Nov. 30	49	29
December ..	29·6	13·1	35·0	1957 Dec. 12	5·0	1908 Dec. 26	48	29
Annual ..	34·1	20·6	..	.. .. ..	..	.. .. ..	59	40

*Hours I. S. T.

STATEMENT I·5

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity

(MAHUVA).

Month		Mean daily maximum temperature	Mean daily minimum temperature	Highest maximum ever recorded		Lowest minimum ever recorded		Relative humidity	
		°C	°C	°C	Date	°C	Date	0830	1730*
January	..	29·8	14 8	33·5	1900 Jan. 27	7·8	1954 Jan. 10	62	52
February	..	32·5	16·8	41·1	1953 Feb. 26	10·6	1956 Feb. 1	55	49
March	..	35·0	19·8	42·8	1056 Mar. 31	12·5	1957 Mar. 2	58	54
April	..	36·4	23·2	45·0	1054 April 24	13·9	1955 April 16	55	59
May	..	35·9	24·9	43·9	1956 May 1	20·0	1957 May 8	73	68
June	..	34 1	26·1	40 6	1953 June 6	22·8	1955 June 2	83	77
July	..	31 3	25·2	35 6	1955 July 29	22 2	1956 July 4	91	84
August	..	30·4	24 3	34·4	1954 Aug. 31	21·1	1952 Aug. 31	94	84
September	..	31·4	23·2	37·0	1960 Sep. 21	19·9	1957 Sep. 20	91	78
October	..	33·9	21·9	38·9	1952 Oct. 10	15·6	1954 Oct. 26	73	62
November	..	32·9	18·9	36·2	1957 Nov. 18	13·3	1953 Nov. 19	59	50
December	..	31·6	16·3	35·0	1960 Dec. 9	0 4	1954 Dec. 18	60	51
Annual	..	32·9	21·3	..	.. .. ..	..	.. ..	71	64

* Hours I. S. T.

STATEMENT I·6

Mean Wind Speed in km/hr.

(BHAVNAGAR)

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
5·8	6·8	7·7	9·2	11·6	12·9	12·1	10·1	8·1	5·3	4·8	5·0	8·3

STATEMENT I·7

Mean Wind Speed in km/hr.

(MAHUVA)

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
5.7	6.1	7.3	8.9	12.8	14.4	14.1	10.6	7.0	5.4	5.4	5.0	8.6

STATEMENT I·8

Special Weather Phenomena

(BHAVNAGAR)

Mean number of days with	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Thunder ..	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.7	6.2	2.8	2.0	2.5	1.2	0.0	0.0	17.5
Hail ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-storm ..	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.1	1.8	2.2	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	6.5
Squall ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3
Fog ..	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5

STATEMENT I·9

Special Weather Phenomena

(MAHUVA)

Mean number of days with	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Thunder ..	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.3
Hail ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-storm ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Squall ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fog ..	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1

ANNEXURE I

Territorial Changes in Bhavnagar District

(1) Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 19th June 1959 :

(a) Entire Gogha mahal (224·7) was transferred from Amreli district to Bhavnagar district.

(b) The following 6 villages were transferred from Damnagar mahal of Amreli district to Vallabhipur mahal of Bhavnagar district. Navagam (2·5), Italia (0·9), Ratanpur (4·5), Mevasa (6·7), Monpur (24·4) and Shahpur (4·1).

(c) Khijadia (2·8) village of Damnagar mahal of Amreli district was transferred to Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district.

(d) The following 17 villages were transferred from Kundla taluka of Bhavnagar district to Dhari taluka of Amreli district. Shilana (5·3), Jamka (5·0), Khijadia (3·0), Sanalia (3·0), Halaria (5·0), Hularia (4·0), Bhath (3·0), Gigasan (6·0), Bhayavadar (3·0), Dahida (4·0), Dhasa Gopalgram (8·5), Dholarva (4·0), Manavav (5·0), Padargadh (6·0), Moti Garamali (4·0), Charkha (8·0) and Khathivadar (3·0).

(e) Rajula mahal (292·3), *minus* Biladi village (2·5), was transferred from Bhavnagar district to Amreli district.

(f) Entire Jafrabad mahal (148·6) was transferred from Bhavnagar district to Amreli district.

(g) Entire Lilia mahal (152·1) was transferred from Bhavnagar district to Amreli district.

(h) Lathi mahal (214·8) *minus* 1 town, viz., Chital (14·9) and the following 17 villages were transferred to Amreli district :

Monapur (6·8), Rikadia (2·5), Shedubhar (9·0), Haripura (3·1), Surajpur (0·9), Anida (2·9), Bhandaria (2·1), Chosla (2·1), Dhasa (6·7), Jalalpur (8·9), Limbala (2·2), Malpara (2·1), Mandva (7·5), Mota Umrala (3·5), Nana Umrala (4·5), Patan (4·2), and Rasnal (3·8). Out of these 1 town, viz., Chital and the first 5 villages were transferred to Amreli taluka of Amreli district and the remaining 12 villages were transferred to Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district.

(2) Under Saurashtra Government, Revenue Department Notification, dated 25th August 1949, the following 3 villages were transferred from Umrala mahal of Bhavnagar district to Lathi taluka of the same district :

Bhalvav (4·6), Bhatvadar (6·3) and Vikalia (5·8).

NOTE.

Figures in brackets indicate the area in sq. miles and relate to the 1951 Census.

Subsequently the village Vikalia was transferred to Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district under Bombay Government Resolution R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 19th April 1959.

(3) Under Bombay Government Resolution No. T. L. C. 1959-26272-C, dated 30th March 1960, the following 3 villages were transferred from Rajula mahal of Amreli district to Mahuva taluka of Bhavnagar district :

Kankot (1·0), Pipalava-mota (1·4) and Pipalava-nana (0·6).

(4) Under Saurashtra Government Notification No. REV/5, dated 23rd April 1951, the following 2 villages were transferred from Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district to Babra taluka of Amreli district :

Barvala (3·6) and Nani Kundal (3·9).

Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 16th June 1959 entire Gogha mahal (224·7) was transferred from Amreli district to Bhavnagar district.

Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 10th June 1959 6 villages as above were transferred from Damnagar mahal of Amreli district to Vallabhipur mahal of Bhavnagar district.

Under Saurashtra Government Notification No. REV-5 Formation 48, dated 9th October 1953 Salaiva village (3·3) was transferred from Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district to Botad taluka of the same district.

(1) Under Bombay Government Resolution R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 19th June 1959

(a) 12 villages as above were transferred from Lathi mahal of Bhavnagar district to Gadhada mahal of the same district

(b) Khijadia village (2·8) was transferred from Damnagar mahal of Amreli district to Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district.

(c) Vikalia village (5·8) was transferred from Lathi taluka of Bhavnagar district to Gadhada mahal of the same district.

(2) Under Saurashtra Government Notification No. REV/5, dated 23rd April 1951, the following 2 villages were transferred from Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district to Babra taluka of Rajkot district :

Barvala (3·6) and Nani Kundal (3·9).

(3) Under Saurashtra Government Notification No. REV/5, Formation 48, dated 9th October 1953 Salaiva village (3·3) was transferred from Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district to Botad taluka of the same district.

(1) Under Saurashtra Government Notification RD/For/29, dated 5th July 1951, the following 12 villages were transferred from Sihor taluka of Bhavnagar district to Palitana taluka of the same district :

Samadhiala (3·9), Nonghanvadar (6·9), Khijadia (2·8), Nesdi (1·6), Navagam (1·6), Anida (6·6), Hanol (N. A.), Badali (3·5), Kumbhan (4·1), Khakharia (0·9), Sarod Juna (2·2) and Sarod Nava (2·1).

(2) Under Saurashtra Government Notification No. REV/5/For/28, dated 17th December 1951 and subsequent amendment No. H/P-1176, dated 20th February 1952, Depla village was transferred from Kundla taluka of Bhavnagar district to Palitana taluka of the same district.

(3) Under Saurashtra Government No. RD/5/For/28, dated December 1952, Ralgaon village (3·6) was transferred from Palitana taluka of Bhavnagar district to Talaja taluka of the same district.

(4) Under Saurashtra Government Resolution No. RDV-POZ/29, dated 5th July 1951, 1 town, viz., Gariadhar and the following 51 villages were transferred from Palitana taluka of Bhavnagar district to form a new Gariadhar mahal :

Anandpur (0·3), Bela (2·6), Bham[illegible]aria (9·[illegible]), Bhandaria (1·0), Ghomal (0·7), Damrala (0·9), Facharia (0·[illegible]), Ganeshgadh (1·0), Gujarada (1·5), Jalia Panasada (1·2), Jalvadar (0·6), Khardi (1·3), Khodvadri (0·7), Luvara (1·3), Mandvi (1·8), Mangadh (0·8), Manguka (0·5), Manpur (1·0), Manvilas (0·04), Mesanka (1·2), Morba (0·5), Mota Charodia (3·3), Nani Vavdi (1·9), Navagam (3·6), Pa (0·8), Pachhegam (1·5), Paldi (0·7), Panchtobra (1·2), Pansada (0·5), Parvadi (4·2), Moti Vavdi (3·4), Nana Charodia (0·6), Pipalva (0·5), Ranigam (2·0), Ratanav (1·3), Rupavati (1·7), Samadhiala (1·6), Sandhkhakhra (1·0), Sarambhada (0·7), Sarinpur (0·8), Satapada (2·3), Shivendranagar (0·6), Sitapur (0·5), Sukhpur (0·6), Surnagar (0·6), Surnivas (1·2), Survilas (0·6), Thansa (1·5), Tima (1·3), Velavadar (1·9) and Virdi (1·0).

Under Saurashtra Government Notification RD/For/29, dated 5th July 1951, 12 villages as above were transferred from Sihor taluka of Bhavnagar district to Palitana taluka of the same district.

Under Saurashtra Government, Revenue Department Notification, dated 25th August 1949, the following 3 villages were transferred from Umrala mahal of Bhavnagar district to Lathi taluka of the same district :

Bhalvav (4·6), Bhatvadar (6·3) and Vikalia (5·8).

Subsequently the village Vikalia was transferred to Gadhada mahal of Bhavnagar district under Bombay Government Resolution R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 19th June 1959.

Under Saurashtra Government Resolution No. RDV-Poz/29, dated 5th July 1951, 1 town, viz., Gariadhar and 51 villages as above were transferred from Palitana taluka of Bhavnagar district to form a new Gariadhar mahal. (1) Under Saurashtra Government Notification No. REV-5/For-28, dated 17th December 1951 and subsequent amendment No. H/P/1176, dated 20th February 1952, Depla village was transferred from Kundla taluka of Bhavnagar district to Palitana taluka of the same district. (2) Under Bombay Government Resolution. R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 19th June 1959, 17 villages as above were transferred from Kundla taluka of Bhavnagar district to Dhari taluka of Amreli district. (1) Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D. No. T. L. C. 3858-C, dated 19th June 1959, Biladi village (2·5) was transferred from Rajula mahal (Now in Amreli district) of Bhavnagar district to Mahuva taluka of Bhavnagar district.

(2) Under Bombay Government Resolution No. T. L. C.-1959/26272-C, dated 30th March 1960, the following 3 villages were transferred from Rajula mahal of Amreli district to Mahuva taluka of Bhavnagar district :

Kankot (1·0), Pipalva-mota (1·4), and Pipalva-nana (0·6).

Under Saurashtra Government Notification No. RD/5/For/28, dated December 1952, Ralgaon village (3·6) was transferred from Palitana taluka of Bhavnagar district to Talaja taluka of the same district.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

PREHISTORY

Palaeoliths and microliths have come to light in other districts of the peninsula, but no old sites in the Bhavnagar district are yet known to have yielded tools of the Stone Ages. Hence we know next to nothing of the prehistoric cultures of the Stone Ages (Early, Middle and Late) in this district.

PROTO-HISTORY

But this is not the case with the proto-historic cultures of the Copper Age. The recent archaeological explorations and trial diggings have brought to light several Harappan sites in the district. A trial digging in 1957-58, for instance, revealed a Harappan site at Motidharai 10 miles north-east of Vallabhipur.[1] Fragments of Harappan pottery have also been discovered at Vallabhipur.[2] Six sites in the Ghelo valley and eight sites in the Kalubhar valley yielded Harappan ware in archaeological explorations in 1960-61.[3] The Harappan ware contained the usual dish-on-stand, convex-sided or carinated bowl, ledge-necked jar, etc.

Four sites in the Ghelo valley and two in the Kalubhar valley yielded a coarse corrugated ware of the Prabhas-Rojdi type.[4] Three sites in the Ghelo valley were characterised by the lustrous red ware and the Chalco-lithic black and red ware.[5]

None of these sites has, however, proved to be promising like Rangpur in Surendranagar district and Lothal in Ahmedabad district.

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1. *Indian Archaeology*, 1957-58, *A Review*, pp. 18-20
2. *Indian Archaeology*, 1962-63, *A Review*, p. 9
3. *Indian Archaeology*, 1960-61, *A Review*, pp. 7-8

The sites in the Ghelo valley are as follows: (1) Khetarvala, (2) Old Alatala, (3) Ranigam, (4) Holidahar, (5) Makavana, and (6) Khanderio. The eight sites in the Kalubhar valley are as under: (1) Devalio, (2) Mahadevayo, (3) Lakhavav, (4) Keravalo, (5) Pasegam, (6) Charanio, (7) Jivani and (8) Vaharvo

4. *Ibid.* The sites in the Ghelo valley are: (1) Old Alatala, (2) Makavana, (3) Khanderio and (4) Ranigam. The sites in the Kalubhar valley are : (1) Mahadevayo and (2) Jivani
5. *Ibid.* These sites are: (1) Old Alatala, (2) Ranigam and (3) Makavana.

The Skanda Purana[1] refers to Valabhi (Vallabhipur in Bhavnagar district) in connection with king Sarayati, son of Vaivasvata Manu. When the latter distributed his kingdom among his sons, this region (now known as *Gujarat*) was *allotted to Sarayati.*[2] *He gave his daughter Sukanya* in marriage to sage Chavana.

EARLY HISTORY

No specific information is available about the early political history of the district, but it seems that the imperial sway of the Mauryan Empire, the probable rule of the Indo-Greek kings like Menander and Apollodotus II and the long reign of the Western Ksatrapas extended to the whole of Saurashtra including this district.

Some early historical sites, seven in the Shetrunji valley, six in the Kalubhar valley and three in the Ghelo valley yielded the red polished wares which belonged to the early centuries of the Christian era.[3] Moreover, the old site of Valabhipur also yielded such ware.[4]

An event recorded in the Jain tradition is associated with Mahuva in this district. When Yaksadeva III who attained the status of Suri in Vira Samvat 585 (i.e., Vikram year 115) was at Mahuva, the Mlechchhas plundered the city and took him captive along with 500 other monks of the creed. But a Mlechchha, who was originally a Sravaka, got the Suri released and sent him to Khatu. There he was offered eleven boys for *diksa*, so that the Jain church may survive. From Khatu the Suri went to Ahada; where, too, he received some boys for *diksa*. This event is dated about V. S. 95 (38-39 A. D).[5]

The author of the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (*Circa* 50 A.D.) refers to the coast from the Gulf of Baraca (Dwarka) to the Gulf of Barygaza (Bharukachchha), i.e., from the Gulf of Kutch to the Gulf of Khambhat and makes mention of the promontory called Papika, the port of Astakapra, and the island of Baiones. The promontory of Papika is the same as what ater on came to be known as Gopnath, named after the temple of Gopnath

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1. *Skand Purana*, Section VII, *Adhyaya* 1, Verse 282
2. MUNSHI K. M., (Ed.), *Glory that was Gurjardesa*, Part I, p. 52
3. *Indian Archaeology*, 1960-61, *A Review*, pp. 7-8

The sites in the Shetrunji valley are as follows : (1) Bhegali, (2) Jiloda, (3) Chandgadh, (4) Khodiyar, (5) Khalavad, (6) Laliya and (7) Aledhar. The sites in the Kalubhar valley are as under : (1) Soupari, (2) Koriya Old, (3) Nehur, (4) Patena, (5) Timbi and (6) Old Tarpada. The sites in the Ghelo valley are as under : (1) Ranigam, (2) Makavana and (3) Old Rampura

4. *Indian Archaeology*, 1962-63, *A Review*, p. 9
5. DARSANVIJAY and others, *Jain Parampara no Itihas*, Part I, p. 22

built by the Gohil chief Gopsinhji of Nandod at the beginning of the sixteenth century. At a distance of about twenty-six miles in the north lies Hathab, which represents ancient Hastavapra or Hastakavapra, which is rendered as Astakapra in the Greek. The island of Baiones is identified with Piram island in the Gulf. Leaving the island on the left, those bound for Bharukachchha (Broach) could sail eastward to the mouth of the Narmada.

The Ksaharata Ksatrapas lost Suratha (Surastra) to the Satavahanas of the Deccan in about 125 A.D., but Mahaksatrapa Rudradaman I of Ujjain recovered it before 150 A.D. His successors held sway over Surastra for a pretty long period of more than two centuries.

The caves at Talaja belong to two or three periods. The *chaitya* cave and the plain cells belong to pre-Christian period when Buddhist monks first came over to Gujarat (*Circa* 200 B.C.). The cells and halls which have Jain symbols and advanced types of pillar forms belong to the period of the later Ksatrapas (*Circa* 200-300 A.D.). Out of the thirty caves which are definitely Buddhistic, the Ebhal Mandapa is an eminent cave. In the facade there are large *chaitya* windows, with a large band of rail-pattern below them. The *stupa* in the *chaitya* cave has its capital attached to the roof.

A number of sites in this district yield red polished ware from layers of the Ksatrapa period. This ware is especially associated with Ksatrapa coins at some places and is some times characterised by its affinity to the Roman Samian Ware.

In *Circa* 400 A.D. Surastra once more passed under the imperial sway of Magadha, this time during the reign of the Gupta sovereigns. The rule of the Gupta emperors is attested to by the numerous silver coins of kings Chandragupta II, Kumaragupta I and Skandagupta discovered oft and on in the different districts of Gujarat.

THE MAITRAKA PERIOD

The region represented by the modern Bhavnagar district rose to prominence when the Maitraka power was established at Valabhi (Vallabhipur) by Bhatarka. The imperial sway of the Gupta sovereigns began to decline after the death of Skandagupta (467-68 A.D.). Senapati Bhatarka took advantage of the situation and established his own power in Surastra. But he abandoned the old capital at Girinagara (Junagadh) and made his choice for the city of Valabhi which became the capital of the new dynasty (*Circa* 470 A.D.).

Vallabhipur was not so much inland in ancient times as it is now. The waters of the Gulf then almost reached the capital. In course of time the silt of the Ghelo filled and choked the channel which once united with the

Bhavnagar creek and to-day the town is about eighteen miles inland, from the harbour on the creek.

The city of Valabhi existed since long even before the rise of the Maitraka power. It finds mention in the Varanadi Gana in Panini's Ganapatha. It figured as a celebrated centre of learning as well as of trade.

The traditional account about the origin of the Shwetambar sect in the city of Valabhi in 136 V.E.[1] (79-80 A.D.) or the Vira Year 609[2] (82-83 A.D.) suggests the importance of the city also as a centre of Jainism. The redaction of the Jain canonical works was done here in 300 or 313 A.D. in the council of Jain monks held under the presidentship of Nagarjuna Suri.[3] Another redaction was prepared in the council held at Mathura at about the same time.[4] But the two redactions were not collated. Their collation was done in a later council held at Valabhi under the presidentship of Devarddhigani Kshama Sramana in about 453 (or 466) A.D.[5] It led to the redaction of the whole canonical literature of Jainism into a manuscript form.[6] It was adopted by the Shwetambars but rejected by the Digambars. It finally split the Jain community into these two sects.[7] The collated redaction done at Valabhi is followed by the Shwetambars throughout India.

Valabhi was closely associated with Buddhism as well. Acharya, Sthiramati and Gunamati, disciples of Asanga and Vasubandhu respectively, had completed their treatises in a *vihara* near Valabhi. They flourished in the fourth century A.D. It seems that the city was chosen as the capital of the new kingdom on account of its long glorious career as well as its maritime position in the Gulf.

Senapati Bhatarka belonged to the Maitraka family. The Maitrakas were a warlike people; they probably were descended from Mitra, one of the four principal disciples of Lord Lakulisa.[8] They were ardent followers of Shaivism.

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1. DEVASENASURI, *Darsanasara*, Vs 21; *Bhavasamgraha*, Vs 32
2. The date is given by JINESVARASURI in his *Pramalakshana*
3. MUNI KALYANAVIJYA, *Vira Nirvana Samvat aur Jain Kala Ganana*, pp. 104–11
4. *Ibid.*
5. The date occurs at the end of the *Kalpasutra*. It was the year 980 (or 993 according to the other version) of the Vira Era. The year would correspond to 453–54 A.D. (or 466–67 A.D.) according to the current tradition of counting the Vira Era since 527 B.C. Some, however, count the Vira Era since 467 B.C. and accept the Vira Year 993 given in the other version, so as to connect the event with the reign of Dhruvasena I (*Circa* 520–550 A.D., Charpentier, *Uttaradhyayna Sutra*, p.16) but the king is in fact associated with another event, viz., the public recital of the *Kalpasutra* (Muni Kalyanavijaya, *Ibid.*, pp. 104–119)
6. KAPADIA H. R., *History of the Canonical Literature of the Jains*, p. 60 ff.
7. *Ibid.*
8. SHASTRI H. G., *Maitraka kalina Gujarat*, Part I, p. 25 ff. There are other views also about the origin of the Maitrakas. According to one of them the origin is traced to the Mitra dynasty the existence of which is deduced from the 'Mitra' ending names of some of the kings mentioned in the legend on the coins of the Panchal region. (*Indian Antiquary*, vol. LXI, p. 70)

Bhatarka, the founder of the Maitraka power at Valabhi, did not assume any royal titles formally but continued to style himself a Senapati. The policy was continued by his successor Dharasena I, (*Circa*, 490-500 A.D.) the eldest of his known sons.

It was Dronasimha (*Circa* 500-520 A.D.) the younger brother and successor of Senapati Dharasena, who assumed the actual title **Maharaja**. The ceremony of his *rajyabhiseka* was personally attended by the overlord, i.e.. the then reigning Gupta sovereign. King Dronasimha issued a grant of land, incised on a copper-plate, in the year 183 of an unspecified era which is obviously identical with the Valabhi Era, the year accordingly corresponding to 501-502 A.D. The grant was dedicated to the temple of a goddess and the village given in the grant was situated in the Hastavapra Aharani, i.e., the Hathab district on the south-east of Valabhi. Like his predecessors he professed to be a Mahesvara.

King Dronasimha was succeeded by his younger brother Dhruvasena I (*Circa* 520-540 A.D.). The latter issued a number of land grants, the known grants being dated in the years 206 to 226, i.e., 525 to 544 A.D. He deviated from the family cult of Shaivism and professed to be a **Bhagavata** (follower of Vaishnavism). The recipients of his grants were Brahmins as well as Buddhist *viharas* (monasteries). Many of the Brahmins resided at Hastakavapra (Hathab), Simhapura (Sihor) and other adjoining places in the district, while some others lived at distant places like Nagaraka (Nagra in Kaira district) and Anandapura (Vadnagar in Mehsana district). One of the Buddhist *viharas* was built at Valabhi by the king's sister's daughter Dudda who was a follower of Buddhism. In course of time the *vihara* developed into a *mahavihara* and round it evolved a campus (*mandala*) of monasteries (*viharas*) known as the Dudda-Vihara Mandala.

Chandralekha, a Vakataka princess, and the daughter of Chandrakirti of Ujjain who is mentioned in connection with the schism in Jainism,[1] married a Valabhi king identified by some with Dhruvasena I.[2] The name of Dhruvasena is also associated with another important event in the history of Jainism. It is said that formerly only monks and nuns were entitled to recite and listen to the *Kalpasutra*. But the sacred work was recited before a public audience at Anandapura for consoling king Dhruvasena, who had been affilicted by the sad demise of his son. Thenceforth even the householders became entitled to listen to it.[3] This king Dhruvasena is generally believed to be Dhruvasena I of Valabhi.

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1. It is said that the *Ardha Phalaka* (half-clad) sect developed into the Shwetambar (white-clad) sect at the instance of this king (Nathurama Premi, *Introduction to Darsanasara*, p. 59).
2. SHAH C. J., *Jainism in North India*, p. 68
3. VINAYAVIJAYA, *Kalpasutra-Subodhika*, p. 9

The king was succeeded by his younger brother Dharapatta, the youngest known son of Senapati Bhatarka. He seems to have reigned for a short period, say about 550 to 555 A.D. He professed to be a devotee of Aditya.

King Guhasena, the son and successor of Dharapatta, was one of the greatest kings of the Maitraka dynasty. He reigned from about 555 to 570 A.D. He represented himself as a Parama Mahesvara in his edicts of 559 and 564 A.D., but professed to be a Parama Upasaka (of the Buddha) in his edict issued in 567 A.D. All his three grants were dedicated to Buddhist *viharas* including the Dudda-Vihara. The eulogist pays high compliments to king Guhasena's powers and supremacy. He is said to have propitiated the hearts of his people righteously and been a *rajan* in the real sense of the term.

Guhasena was succeeded by his son Dharasena II who reigned from about 570 to 595 A.D. Ten of his known grants were received by the Brahmins of Surastra, Khetaka (Kheda) and Anandapura (Vadnagar) while three were issued to Buddhist *viharas*. One of the *viharas* was the Bappapadiya Vihara built by Acharya Sthiramati. The king seems to have distinguished himself among archers through his inborn valour and special training. He is eulogised for his immense liberality, rare combination of wealth and learning, maintenance of religious grants issued by former kings, protection of his people and other virtues.

He had two sons, Siladitya and Kharagraha. Siladitya I, who succeeded his father, reigned from about 595 to 612 A.D. He dedicated one grant of land to a temple of Mahadeva, another to a temple of Aditya-deva and six others to Buddhist *viharas*. One of the *viharas* was a *vihara* built by Yaksasura at Valabhi for nuns. In course of time it became the centre of a *vihara-mandala* for nuns. Another *vihara* was one built by the king himself. After some years the Chinese traveller Yuan Chwang recorded that king Siladitya had built a *vihara* by the side of his palace and exhausted the skill of sculpture in its decoration. He had installed the images of the seven Buddhas in this *vihara*. The king took keen interest in following the tenets of Buddhism. He convoked a Moksa Parishad annually and made grants of various valuable articles to the Bhiksus that hailed from the four quarters. His ardent devotion won for him the second name 'Dharmaditya.'

King Siladitya I *alias* Dharmaditya extended his sway over Malava (Malwa). Brahmins from Dasapura (Mandasor) began to settle at Valabhi and received royal patronage of the Maitrakas. The power of the Maitraka king now extended from the western sea in the west up to Ujjain in the east. He probably also held sway over the Vindhya territory. Prince Derabhata seems to have been put in charge of this territory. He established a separate branch of the Maitraka lineage there.

As for the main line at Valabhi, the choice of king Siladitya I fell upon his younger brother Kharagraha I who succeeded the king in about 615 A.D. In 616 A.D. he encamped at Ujjain. His military expedition was probably related to the long known struggle for supremacy between emperor Harsha of North India and emperor Pulkesin II of South India. The king reigned for a short period of about 5 years (*Circa* 615-620 A.D.). He was succeeded by his son Dharasena III. The latter reigned from about 620 to 628 A.D.

Samanta Siladitya II, son of Derabhata, held allegiance to king Dharasena III and his successor.

King Dharasena III held victorious camps at Khetaka (Kaira) in 623-624 A.D. He is eulogised for his proficiency in archery. He was succeeded by his younger brother Dhruvasena II *alias* Baladitya. (*Circa* 628-643 A.D.).

In the beginning king Dhruvasena II was vanquished by emperor Harsha but ultimately he had the honour of being the son-in-law of the sovereign. The relationship gave him an eminent place among the feudatory kings that assembled at the court of emperor Harsha. The king is eulogised as proficient in polity as well as in grammar. He had high regard for Buddhism. Like his predecessors he also used to convoke an annual *parishad* and bestow precious articles upon mendicants.

During his travel in India Yuan Chwang popularly known as Hiuen-Tsiang, the Chinese pilgrim, visited Valabhi in *Circa* 640 A.D. during the reign of this Dhruvasena, whom he introduces in his records as the nephew of Siladitya of Malava (the Maitraka King Siladitya I who conquered Malava) and son-in-law of King Siladitya of Kanauj (emperor Harsha).

The pilgrim introduces the country of Valabhi as about 6,000 *li* (1,000 miles) in circuit and the capital as about 36 *li* (6 miles) in circuit. The soil was rich and fertile, and produced abundant harvests. Shrubs and trees were numerous and flourishing. Flowers and fruits were met with in great quantities. The soil was suitable in an especial manner for winter wheat. The disposition of men was virtuous and docile, and they were in general of remarkable intelligence. Their language was elegant and clear, and their learning was wide and profound.[1] Not far from the city was a great monastery built by the Arhat Achala,[2] who also built a great monastery at Ajanta.[3] Some identify this monastery with the Ebhal Mandapa cave in the Talaja hill.[4] King Dhruvasena participated in the public reception given to the Chinese pilgrim Yuan Chwang at Kanauj.

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1. BEAL (Trans), *Buddhist Records of the Western World*, pp. 266-267, 1884
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*, pp. 267-268
4. *Puratattva*, Vol. I, pp. 103-112

At the sixth quinquennial assembly convoked by emperor Harsha in 643 A.D. near the confluence of Ganga and Yamuna at Prayaga shortly after the Dharma Parishad at Kanauj, king Dhruvasena of Valabhi held a position of distinction along with king Kumara of Assam, all the eighteen other kings ranking next to them.[1]

King Dharasena IV, the son and successor of Dhruvasena II, was the greatest king of the Maitraka dynasty. He expressed obeisance to his *ajjaka* (maternal grandfather), i.e., emperor Harsha. In his lineage he was the first king to assume the imperial titles Paramabhattaraka-Maharajadhiraja-Paramesvara. He also styled himself a Chakravarti. His successors continued to assume the usual three imperial titles but the title of Chakravarti was not assumed by any of his predecessors or successors. Emperor Harsha died in about 647 A.D. and left no male heir to succeed him. King Dharasena IV, however, could not avail himself of the situation and inherit the glorious empire of his maternal grandfather. He was content with proclaiming himself as the Chakravarti in his dominions.

The Maitrakas extended their sway as far as Ujjain in the east but the southern parts of Gujarat were not included into their dominions. King Dharasena IV marched southward and held a victorious encampment at Broach in 648 A.D. The Bharukachchha *visaya* (Broach district) now passed under the power of the Valabhi kingdom.

The Chakravarti was dexterous in the theory as well as practice of archery. He is said to have levied light taxation on the land. A number of feudatories held obeisance to the Chakravarti. But he enjoyed a short reign of about seven years (*Circa* 643 to 650 A.D.) and left no son to succeed him.

The succession now turned back to the lineage of Siladitya I, the elder brother of his grandfather and the choice fell upon Dhruvasena III, the youngest known brother of king Siladitya II of the Vindhya territory. He issued grants of land situated in the Khetaka (Kaira district) as well as in the Sivabhagapura (Shivrajpur) district. He reigned from about 650 A.D. to only about 655 A.D.

King Dhruvasena III was succeeded by his elder brother Kharagraha II *alias* Dharmaditya. He renewed the religious grants confiscated by former kings and aimed at illuminating his dynasty by means of the banner of Dharma. The eulogist describes him as an unprecedented Purusottama. Like his predecessor he also reigned for a short period of about five years (*Circa* 655 to 660 A.D.) and seems to have left no male issue.

The throne of Valabhi now passed to Siladitya III, the son of king Siladitya II of the Vindhya territory. With his succession the Vindhya branch probably merged into the main line.

1. BEAL (Trans), *Life of Hiuen Tsiang*, pp. 185-186, 1888

Beginning with him all the kings of Valabhi bore the common name Siladitya and inherited the usual imperial titles Paramabhattaraka-Maharajadhiraja-Paramesvara. The pontiff Bappa to whom the king held obeisance was also endowed with these honorific titles.

King Siladitya III (*Circa* 660-685 A.D.) is known to have issued several grants of land between 662 A.D. and 676 A.D. Many of them were received by the Brahmins of Valabhi, Simhapura, Khetaka and other places, while three were dedicated to Buddhist *viharas* of the Dudda-Vihara Mandala at Valabhi. The lands given in grant were situated in Surastra, Khetaka and Bharukachchha district. An Arab traveller records that Sardar Ismail attacked Gogha in A.H. 57 (677 A.D.),[1] but the local Arabic inscription which supplied him this information is entirely illegible and has not been deciphered The event is the earliest known Arab raid in this district.

King Siladitya III lost Bharukachchha district to the Gujarat king Dadda III Bahusahaya of Nandipuri. Bharukachchha became the new capital o. the Gurjaras.

Siladitya IV, the son and successor of Siladitya III, reigned from about 685 to 710 A.D. He issued some grants of land from Surastra. The eulogist pays high compliments to him for his liberality, prowess and majesty.

He was succeeded by his son Siladitya V, who reigned from *Circa* 710 to 735 A.D. He made grants of villages situated in Surastra. The grants are dated Valabhi Year 403 (721-722 A.D.) and were issued from his victorious camp at Khetaka (Kaira).[2]

Muhammad Kasim who conquered Sind in 711 A.D. made peace with Surastra in A.H. 95 (714 A.D.), Junaid, who was appointed Governor of Sind in about 725 A.D., sent an expedition against certain regions including Surastra but the Arab forces had to retreat ultimately. The Arab raid was turned back from Navasarika (Navasari), it also received a severe blow at Valabhi where king Jayabhata IV of Bharukachchha took a lead, evidently in alliance with the local king Siladitya V. The event is dated about 726 A.D.

Siladitya VI, the son and successor of Siladitya V, reigned from about 735 to 760 A.D. The village given in grant by him was situated in Suryapura *visaya*, that is Panchmahals district. The grant was issued from Godrahaka (Godhra). Thus the Maitrakas of Valabhi still held sway at least as far as the eastern border of modern Gujarat. The encampment of the Maitraka

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1. *Mirat-e-Mustafabad*, Part 2, p. 49 f.

2. Khetaka mentioned in connection with the abduction of Chalukya princess by the Rastrakuta king Indra I is not identifiable with this place in Gujarat.

king at Godhra was probably meant against the overwhelming power of the Pratiharas in the north-east.

Hasham, who was appointed the Governor of Sind in A.H. 140 (758 A.D.), sent Amru with a fleet against Valabhi,[1] but the Arabs seem to have met with no success.

King Siladitya VI seems to have patronised Prince Pusyena of Sind, the Saindhava King served as a feudatory to the king of Valabhi and settled at Ghumli in Halar.

King Siladitya VI of Valabhi probably married the princess of the Chahamana king Dhrubhata of Bharukachchha (Broach). King Siladitya VII, the last known king of the Maitraka dynasty, was the son and successor of Siladitya VI. The eulogy of all his predecessors is given in high prose, while that of this king is composed in verse. The king was also named Dhrubhata, probably after his maternal grandfather. He held a victorious camp at Anandapura (Vadnagar in Mehsana district) in 766 A.D. It was probably meant to withstand the overwhelming power of the Gurjara Pratiharas. According to the *Udaysundarikatha* by Soddhala, king Siladitya of Valabhi had a long war with king Dharmapala of Bengal. The war continued for long on account of his disloyal officers who fell a prey to the bribes of his enemies. At last Kaladitya, the younger brother of king Siladitya, took charge of the war in his own hands and shortly succeeded in vanquishing the enemy. When Kaladitya returned to Valabhi, he was appointed in place of Amatya Kanakayana who had proved disloyal to the king. From Kaladitya sprang the lineage of the Valabhi Kayasthas.

In A. H. 160 (766 A.D.) in the reign of Khalif Al-Mahdi (775-785 A.D.) Abdul Malik led a naval expedition against Valabhi.[2] In the beginning the Arabs succeeded in taking the town but sickness swept away a great portion of the troops and the rest had to return hurriedly. It deterred the Khalif from any further attempts upon India. Generally this Arab invasion is taken to be instrumental in the overthrow of Valabhi, but the latter event is now definitely dated V. S. 845 (788 A.D.). The city thus survived the Arab expedition for more than a decade.

According to the tradition reserved in the Jain Prabandhas, the fall of Valabhi along with that of its royal family is attributed to a *sresthin* named Kaku *alias* Ranka, who was offended by king Siladitya by the latter snatching off the rare covetable comb of Kakus' daughter. Kaku consequently invited the Mlechchha army to invade Valabhi and slay its king. Kaku hailed from

1. There is a controversy about the Arabic name of this place and its identification. Some locate it near Barada in Halar.
2. *Ibid.*

the village Pali in Marwar and settled at Valabhi where he attained immense wealth through some *siddhis*. On getting offended by the oppressive step of the king he went to the Mlechchha-mandala, bribed the Mlechchha lord with crores of coins and brought the Mlechchha army to invade Valabhi. Under his guidance the Mlechchha troops succeeded in slaying the king in war and their success resulted in the destruction of the city.

The fall (*bhanga*) of Valabhi took place in year 845 of the Vikrama Era,[1] though some misascribed the year to the Vira Era[2] and equated it with V. E. 375.[3] The year V. E. 375 falls prior to the foundation of the Valabhi kingdom while the year 845 (788-89 A.D.) falls shortly after Valabhi Year 447 (766 A.D.) the known date of the last king Siladitya of Valabhi. Hence the fall of Valabhi must be dated V. E. 845.[4]

Tradition also records that when the fall of Valabhi was anticipated, the principal Jain images left Valabhi for different places of safety.[5] The image of Chandraprabha[6] shifted to Devpattana (Prabhas Patan) along with those of Amba and the Ksetrapala; the image of Vardhamana Mahavira shifted to Srimali (Bhinmal in Rajasthan) on the full-moon day of Ashvin that of Adideva to Kasahrada (Kasandra, 12 miles south-west of Ahmedabad), that of Parsvanatha to Harija (Mehsana district) and that of Valabhinatha to Shatrunjaya. As Ashvin marked the eve of the fall of Valabhi, the event obviously took place at the beginning of the next year which commenced in Kartik and the date probably fell in 788 A.D.

The Mlechchha lord of the tradition is identified by Al-Biruni (C 1030 A.D.) with the lord of Al-Mansura, the Arab capital of Sind. He may, therefore, be identified with Salim who governed Sind from 786 to 790 A. D.[7] Another view, however, holds that the Valabhi kingdom was destroyed by the contemporary Pratihara king, who set-up one or more feudatory families like the Chapas and the Chalukyas to rule over this territory.[8]

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1. JINAPRABHASURI, *Viridhatirthakalpa* (Singhi Jain Series), p.
2. RAJASEKHARASURI, *Prabandhakasa* (Jain Singhi Series), p. 74
3. MERUTUNGACHARYA, *Prabandhachintamani* (Jain Singhi Series), p. 109; RAJASEKHARASURI. *op. cit.*, p. 74
4. SHASTRI. H. G., *The Fall of Valabhi, Indian Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XXIII, p. 249 ff.
5. *Prabandhachintamani*, p. 109; *Puratana prabandhasangraha*, p. 84; *Viridhatirtha-kalpa*, p. 29
6. The image of Chandraprabha at Prabhas Patan bears an inscription that it hailed from Valabhi.
7. SHASTRI H. G., *Maitraka kalin Gujarat*, p. 160
8. MAJUMDAR R. C., (Ed), The *Classical Age*, Bombay, p. 151, 1954

The royal dynasty of the Maitrakas came to an end with the fall of their capital. The city lost its supreme power for ever and its glorious career turned into a record of the past. However, it left long memorials in the form of Valabhi Era, Valabha Brahmins, Valabha Kayasthas, Vala Rajputs and the site of Vala (now renamed Vallabhipur).

The era adopted by the kings of Valabhi from the Gupta empire but adjusted to the local system of *kartikadi* years, got popularly known as the Valabhi Era. Its years commenced five months earlier than the corresponding years of the Gupta Era. The era was adopted by the kings of Valabhi in about the year 150 of the Gupta Era[1] and it survived in Saurashtra for about five centuries even after the fall of Valabhi.[2]

The Valas

The tradition[3] tracing the origin of the Gohils to queen Puspavati, widow of the last king Siladitya of Valabhi through her posthumous son Guhadatta, cannot hold good.[4] It was presumably based on the confusion made by Jain writers between the Gohil king Siladitya of Mewar and the well-known king Siladitya of Valabhi though Guhadatta, the founder of the Gohil dynasty, flourished about two centuries earlier than king Siladitya of Valabhi. Moreover, the Gohils connect themselves with the Solar dynasty of Ayodhya, whereas the kings of Valabhi traced their origin to the Yadu line of the Lunar dynasty. Thus the Gohils cannot be taken as descended from the Maitrakas of Valabhi.

But the ancient kings of Valabhi are represented by the later Valas, whose name seems derived from Vala, the later form of Valabhi (in Sanskrit) or Valahi (in Prakrit).[5]

The Valas trace their origin to Vrishaktu. They seem to have returned to Valabhi and repeopled it after some interval under the leadership of Ebhal Vala. Formerly Brahmins immigrated into Valabhi from other places like

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1 SHASTRI H. G., *The Valabhi Era, Indian Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XXIV, p. 238

2. *Veraval Inscription of the time of Arjunadeva*, dated year 954 of the Valabhi Era

3. TOD, *Annals and Antiquities* of *Rajasthan*, Vol. I, p. 251, ff

4. OZA G. H., *Rajputana ka Itihas*, Vol. I, p. 38 ;, ff.

5. However, the bardic tradition seems to derive the name from the Gujarati root *Valavum* to take back or reconquer, denoting that they had returned to their ancient seat from their exile. The Vala Rajputs claim descent from the Solar dynasty. But their kinship with the Maitraka rulers of Valabhi is reflected in the use of the name Siladit, which is evidently derived from Siladitya.

Anandapura, while Brahmins of Valabhi now emigrated to other places like Ankettaka (represented by Akota near Baroda).[1]

The district seems to have been subject to the sway of the Rastrakutas for sometime, as implied by the Devali Plates, which record a grant of land issued to a Brahmin of Valabhi by the Rastrakuta king Govindaraja Prabhutavarsa in the year 500 of the Valabhi Era, corresponding to 818-19 A.D. The land given in grant, lay on the bank of Shatrunjaya (Shetrunji) river.[2]

The Valas probably established their power at Vala shortly after the fall of Valabhi. They ruled there till the thirteenth century. During this period the Valas had spread throughout the neighbouring territory. They had established themselves at Talaja, expelling the Mehar rulers of the place. From there they spread to Bhadrod.

The hill of Talaja was known as Taladhvaja-giri, the origin of which is ascribed to a demon named Taladhvaja. The Vala king Ebhal I is said to have subjugated the demon and taken hold of Talaja.[3] He also possessed the town of Vala along with the Valak region.

Ebhal I was succeeded by his son Shuroji. His son and successor was Ebhal II. This reign is said to have been marked with a long famine caused by drought.[4] He was succeeded by his son Anoji and the latter by his son Ebhal III.

At Vala, the Valam Brahmins who officiated as the priests of the Kayasthas charged heavy fees for the marriage ceremony of their daughters. As the Kayasthas were not in a position to pay the fees, their daughters had to remain unmarried. But the Brahmins were reluctant to reduce their fees. The Kayasthas then approached the king who offered to pay the fees for the ceremony of the marriage of all girls and earn the religious merit of the gift of several girls. But when the Brahmins demanded an advance payment, the king went to Talaja and got the ceremony performed by Brahmins of another caste. The Valam Brahmins consequently left Vala and went to Dhandhuka where the Koli king Dhanmer patronised them. Dhanmer had given his daughter in marriage to king Ranaji Gohil at Ranpur. Under the pretext of fighting for the cause of the Valam Brahmins, the two kings

1. Baroda Plates of the Rastrakuta king Karka Suvarnavarsa, dated Saka Year 734 (812 A.D.), *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XII, p. 156 ff.

2. *Journal of U. P. Historical Society*, Vol. XXIV-XXV, p. 190, ff. The grant contains not only the earliest specific reference to the Valabhi Era but also the earliest epigraphic reference to Palitana.

3. FORBES A. K., *Rasmala*, (Trans. in Gujarati by R. Udayaram), Bombay, Part, I, p. 420, 1922

4. *Ibid* p. 421.

attacked Vala and slew Ebhal in war. The region of Valak now passed under the power of Ranaji Gohil.[1]

When Vala passed under the power of the Gohils, the Valas quitted Vala for ever and finally settled at Talaja and Bhadrod. The region consequently got known after them as Valak (or Vala Ksetra).

When Mahmud Ghazni made an invasion of Somnath, (1025 A.D.) Mahuva and the coast of Valak were held by the Valas and the remainder of the coast to its north was probably in the hands of Kolis as far as Gogha. In about 1090 A.D., the Valas occupied the north-east corner of the peninsula, and thence began to extend their possessions to the west and south.

The Gohils

The Gohils of Saurashtra claim descent from the celebrated king Shalivahan (78 A. D.), while the Gohils of Mewar trace their origin to the Solar dynasty of Ayodhya. In 1260 A. D. the Gohils left Khergadh on the Luni in Marwar and entered the peninsula under the leadership of Sejakji, the chieftain of Khergadh. He sought the protection of Ra Khengar of Sorath and through the favour of the latter settled on the Jhalawar frontier at a place named after himself, Sejakpur. The Vaghela power was then on the decline; their control of the peninsula was none too effective and the Khengars of Junagadh consequently, strong. Further, the spectre of a new power, the Turkish had arisen in North India. The Gohils, it is said, were forced to leave their home in Khergadh on the Luni in Marwar owing to the pressure of the Rathods, themselves driven out from their kingdom by the Turks. Within a generation of their arrival in South Saurashtra, the Turks had succeeded in overthrowing the last of the Vaghelas and in converting the mainland and its adjuncts into a province of the Delhi kingdom. Sejakji (1260-1290), the chief of the immigrating Gohils succeeded in winning the goodwill of the ruler of Junagadh and thereby gained a footing. Given a grant of twelve villages, Sejakji founded a village which he named Sejakpur after himself, made it his headquarters and busied himself in expanding his power.

He was succeeded by Ranoji who reigned for nineteen years. In his time, also commenced the proliferation of the Gohils and their expansion in several parts of South Gujarat. Ranoji's reign saw the establishment of the Turks at Patan. He founded a new capital in Ranpur and it was in defending this that he was killed in 1309. Ranoji had two step-brothers, Sarangji and Shahji. They married their sister Valam to the Khengar of Junagadh. The Ra granted to Sarangji the Arthila Chovisi near Kundla, while Shahji received the Chovisi of Mandvi. From Ranoji sprang the house of Bhavnagar, from Shahji the chieftains of Palitana, and from Sarangji the line of Lathi.

1. Forbes A. K., *Rasmala*, (Trans. in Gujarati by R. Udayaram), Bombay, Part I, p. 425, 1922

BHAVNAGAR

MOKHDAJI AND OTHER RULERS (1309-1703)

Ranoji's son Mokhdaji moved towards the south, made Umrala which he snatched from the Kolis, his capital. He also captured Gogha from the Muslim Kasbatis and the island of Piram from the Kolis; his attack on Gogha, however, drew on him the wrath of the Sultan, Muhammad Tughluq who was then in Gujarat. In a sharp encounter, Mokhdaji was killed though he is said to have earned the praise of his adversary by his high daring (1309-1347).

This serious reverse for the time being spelt disaster to the Gohils, at least to the reigning house. Dungarji, the eldest son succeeded his father while the younger Samarsinhji escaped to his maternal grandfather at Rajpipla whom he later succeeded to found the dynasty there.

Dungarji recovered as much of his authority as he could after the departure of the Sultan from Saurashtra but he and his successors did not become powerful in this area. He was succeeded by Vijoji (1370-1395) and Vijoji by Kanoji (1395-1420). By this time, the rule of Delhi had given place to the independent Sultanate of Gujarat.

In 1411, the first powerful Sultan of Gujarat, founded the city of Ahmedabad and began a policy of systematically reducing the peninsula to his authority. After his first campaign in Saurashtra, Ra Malag of Junagadh accepted his overlordship and *salami* or tribute was imposed on him in 1414.

Evidently, a similar levy was imposed on minor chiefs in Saurashtra as well. In 1420, when Kanoji died, his son Sarangji was still a boy. His uncle, Ramji surrendered him to the Sultan's army in lieu of tribute and for the time, succeeded in establishing himself. Nevertheless, Sarangji managed to make good his escape from Ahmedabad owing to a faithful potter who also secured for him the help of Rawal Patai of Champaner, not to be confused with Rawal Jayasinha also popularly called Patai in whose time Champaner was conquered by Sultan Mahmud Begada, and with his help Sarangji recovered his heritage. Ramji attempted to win over his kinsmen of Lathi and Gariadhar but they repaired to the rightful claimant when he promised to give them the grants promised by the usurper and on Ramji's submission he was given a suitable grant.

It is said that in recognition of the help given by Rawal Patai, or Pratap Singh, Sarangji assumed the title of Rawal, on ascending the *gadi*.

For about a century and a half, the Gohil chiefs ruled at Umrala, being minor chieftains in an area which formed the periphery of the area directly

controlled by the Sultans. A number of collateral branches, spread all over the area, came into existence; one of them Chamzardia Gohils established themselves in Bhuj.

Sarangji was succeeded in 1445 by his son Shavdas (1445-1470) and he by Jetaji (1470-1505). It was probably in the time of this chief that Ranpur, then held by Ranji Gohil, a tributary of the Sultan was attacked by Mahmud Begada and captured. Ranpur now falls just outside the Bhavnagar district and is included in the Ahmedabad district though originally founded by the Gohil house. Consequently, the bards relate the picturesque story of the attack caused by the refusal of the Gohil's wife to eat with her sister wedded to the Sultan, as also by the killing of a Muslim boy called for prayers. It is also not unlikely that the Sultan did not like to have a relatively powerful chief too near his capital.

Jetaji was succeeded by Ramdasji (1505-1535) who is said to have been killed while wearing his wedding garments in the defence of Chittor; on his way back from the pilgrimage to Kashi, he had wedded the daughter of a *sardar* of Mewar; this attack was probably the one by Bahadur Shah of Gujarat which culminated in the fall of that citadel on March 8, 1535.

Ramdasji was succeeded by Sartanji (1535-1570) and he by Visoji (1570-1600). These were the years of the decline of the Sultanate of Gujarat. On November 7, 1572, Akbar arrived at Patan, reached Ahmedabad on November 20 and stayed there till December 8 and Surat fell to him on February 26. 1573. Mughal authority was thus established in Gujarat. Disturbances, however, continued and it was only in 1591 when the battle of Bhuchar Mori and the suicide of the last Sultan Muzaffar Shah III immediately thereafter, sealed the end of the independent dynasty of Gujarat.

Visoji and his principality do not seem to have been much affected by these events stirring the mainland and the northern parts of the peninsula He, however, gained an important adjunct to his principality by capturing Sihor to which place he shifted his headquarters. This capture he was able to effect by taking advantage of a factional dispute between two groups of Audich Brahmins, the Janis and the Ranas, in which the former sought his aid. Visoji surprised the Ranas and their ally, his kinsman Kandhoji of Gariadhar and brought the town under his control.

The establishment of Mughal rule did not mean the end of the internecine warfare which seems to have characterised the internal politics of the peninsula. In fact, it signified the emergence of new powers and among these were the Gohils. Like the Jadejas who established their power in the central regions at the cost of the Kathis, the Gohils were involved in a prolonged duel with them which eventually led to their expansion and the fragmentation of the Kathis.

Visoji's successor Dhunoji (1600-1619) found it initiated in his time. His kinsman, Noghanji of Gariadhar was involved in a quarrel with Loma Kathi of Kherdi, a powerful Kathi chief who had with Amin Khan Ghori and Jam Satarsal of Jamnagar lent support to Muzaffar Shah III in the battle of Bhuchar Mori in 1591. Driven from his seat, Noghanji appealed to Dhunoji and responding to the appeal, Dhunoji was killed by Loma Kathi in an encounter near Velavadar.

His son, Ratanji too faced a combination of Kathi and other opponents whom he managed to defeat only to be killed subsequently (1620). His son Harbhamji reigned for only two years (1620-1622) and died leaving an infant, Akherajji as his successor.

This was the signal for an internecine conflict in which several collateral Gohil branches were involved. Govindji, the infant successor's uncle attempted to usurp the *gadi*. To win the support of the Mughal deputy at Junagadh, Mirza Isa Tar Khan, Govindji surrendered his rights in the port of Gogha to him in 1636. The same year he died and was succeeded by his son, Satrasalji. In the same year, however, Akherajji was restored among others, with the help of the Kathis and Satrasalji granted the *taḷa* of Bhandara.

Akherajji had been helped by an official from the service of the Mughal deputy at Loliyana, Mehta Ramji, who accompanied him to Sihor and helped him to assert himself over his turbulent kinsmen. He also helped Noghanji of Gariadhar to recover his capital from the Kathis, and received the *chouth* of Gogha from the Mughals.

In 1660 he died and was succeeded by his son Ratanji who ruled peacefully through the latter part of Aurangzeb's reign (1660-1703). The Mughal empire was now on the decline; the uneasy peace which had characterised the peninsula, punctuated by all too frequent internecine conflicts, was now to be engulfed in a larger holocaust. The death of Ratanji in 1703 and the death of the last of the great Mughals in 1707 were portents of a century during which not Saurashtra but India as a whole was to be in a crucible.

BHAVSINHJI I (1703-1764)

Ratanji was followed by the two rulers who could justifiably claim to be the architects of the Bhavnagar State–Bhavsinhji, who founded the city of Bhavnagar in 1723 and, after an interval of eight years, Wakhtsinhji. These three reigns bridged the transition from the Mughals to the British from 1703 to 1816.

The long reign of Bhavsinhji which spanned more than half of this period (1703-1764) saw the collapse of the Mughals and their virtual

extinction as a political power in Gujarat. Simultaneous was the rise of two powers, the Marathas whose earliest raid into the peninsula preceded the foundati on of Bhavnagar just by an year, and the English whose virtual occupation of Surat followed the fall of Ahmedabad to the Marathas also by an year. Bhavsinhji had the acumen to judge the political forces correctly with the result that when he died, he had left his small principality incomparably enlarged and strengthened.

Bhavsinhji's policy may be said to lie in opposing his immediate neighbours who directly impinged on his domains and in keeping himself entrenched enough and strong enough to meet a direct attack unflinchingly. He sufferedheavily in repulsing Kanthaji Kadam Bande in 1722-23 and was so impressed by the vulnerability of his exposed headquarters, Sihor, that he sought a more secure place which could also provide a safe outlet in case of emergency. Consequently, he moved from Sihor to Wadwa on a creek not far north of Gogha and in 1723 founded the city which bears his name. Bhavsinhji had intended his new capital to be a well protected haven primarily but he was not without plans to raise it to a port which would divert at least a share of commerce which normally went to Surat and Cambay.

Bhavsinhji's reputation had risen high by virtue of his success against the Marathas. Still, his principality was a small one and his neighbours, in this disturbed age fairly strong. Gogha to the south of Bhavnagar was held by Sher Khan Babi; Momin Khan held Cambay (Khambhat).

Again t these uncomfortable neighbours and also to help the commerce of his new capital, Bhavsinhji cultivated the friendship of the city governor of Surat, Sohrab Khan (1725-1733). Sohrab Khan was not without enemies in his own city. But on being promised 1½ per cent of the sea custom revenues of Bhavnagar port and exemption to Surat merchants from the payment of customs duty at Bhavnagar, he allowed Bhavnagar merchandise to pass duty free at Surat, and agreed to joint action in suppressing piracy at the Saurashtra coast.

Events in Surat, however, compelled Sohrab Khan to fly to Bhavnagar in 1733 though the next year he managed to secure from Delhi, the nomination for the Deputy Faujdari of the peninsula and also the *jagir* of Gogha. But in the year following, in an attempt to implement his title over Viramgam he was killed in an encounter with Ratansinh Bhandari, deputy of the Subedar of Ahmedabad.

The elimination of Sohrab Khan who threatened to grow too powerful in the peninsula undoubtedly removed a potential danger but also made for a dimunition of Bhavsinhji's power. Sher Khan Babi was restored Gogha by Momin Khan in 1738; consequently, Bhavsinhji renewed his treaty with Surat, particularly with the admiral of the Mughal fleet, the Sidis.

In 1758, with the fall of Ahmedabad to the Marathas, the fabric of Mughal rule in Gujarat collapsed leading to the formation of petty principalities headed by the former Mughal nobles. Simultaneously, a year later in 1759, the factious fighting in Surat led to the occupation of that city by the English. The British Government acquired in 1759, a right to a fourth share of the customs of the port of Bhavnagar from the Sidi of Surat, to whom it had been granted earlier by Bhavsinhji as the price of protection from the enmity of the Nawab of Cambay.[1]

The political sagacity of Bhavsinhji can be seen in his policy by continuing the alliance with the new masters of Surat, particularly welcome when the Marathas had emerged dominant in north Gujarat. This was a policy which paid dividends in the reigns of his successors and helped the small principality to expand and hold its own against the Marathas.

In 1764, after a long and successful reign, Bhavsinhji passed away. He had built up the principality considerably. Col. Watson writes "he contrived to absorb most of the crown villages and thanahs near Bhavnagar, Sihor and Umrala and wrested Trapaj from a Palitana Bhayat and Sartanpur from the Koli pirates and annexed them to his dominions."[2] "Few chiefs in India", Col. Watson continues, "have accomplished more than Bhavsinhji did during his long life and few have displayed such a happy mixture of audacity and caution as he."[3]

AKHERAJJI (1764-1772)

Akherajji was fifty when he succeeded his father in 1764 and during his short reign of eight years, he followed his father's policy. The collapse of Mughal authority as noted earlier, had led to the fragmentation of the country among local potentates and particularly in Saurashtra, lawlessness was rampant. Among the smaller potentates, the rulers of Cambay and Junagadh were stronger ones while the threat of the Marathas, dominant in North Gujarat but leading *mulukgiri* expeditions into the peninsula, was an ever present one.

Gogha had been restored to Sher Khan Babi after the death of Sohrab Khan and in 1755 taken over by Momin Khan. In 1758, it had been promised to the Marathas, being included in the Peshwa's share. The promise had not been carried out; in 1764, therefore, Akherajji helped the Peshwa's force in snatching it from Momin Khan. For this helpful act, Akherajji secured the remission of certain tributes and received in *inam*, the Bhavnagar duties estimated between Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 annually (1764).

1. AITCHISON C. U., *Treaties, Engagements and Sunnuds Relating to the States within the Bombay Presidency*, Calcutta, p. 373, 1909

2. WATSON J. W., *Statistical Account of Bhavnagar*, p. 28, 1910

3. *Ibid.*

In 1771, the English alliance also benefited Akherajji in two ways. The treaty which the Bombay Government made with Momin Khan, now the independent Nawab of Cambay (Khambhat) stipulated that he was not to disturb Akherajji in his traditional possessions and further, he was not to interfere in the town or port of Bhavnagar or to enhance its dues. Henceforward, Bhavnagar remained free from any danger from him.

In the same year, Akherajji was asked by the English in helping them to suppress the Baria Koli pirates, who basing themselves on Talaja, had infested the Saurashtra coast for long and had lately interfered with English shipping. Perceiving the advantages of this co-operation. Akherajji willingly helped the English expedition which landed at Sultanpur and with Bhavnagar contingents, proceeded to Talaja. The town fell to the allies affer heavy shelling and the English offered it to Akherajji. He was, however, not willing to expand his territories beyond the Shatrunjaya and thus it was handed over to Momin Khan who agreed to hold it as an English feudatory.

As a proof of his friendship towards the English, Akherajji at this time entertained Raghoba (Raghunath Rao) at the instance of the English Resident at Baroda after he had been refused asylum by Momin Khan. Subsequently, he was put on one of Bhavnagar vessels and sent to Bombay.

Akherajji's reign, sandwitched as it is between his father's and son's has tended to be eclipsed by both. Nevertheless, he was an able and sagacious ruler who strengthened the English link which promised to be Bhavnagar's most valuable asset. Simultaneously, he gained the goodwill of the dominant Marathas though the mercurial internal politics of Poona and Baroda did not postulate it to be of lasting worth. He died in 1772 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Wakhtsinhji.

WAKHTSINHJI (1772-1816)

If Bhavsinhji is the founder of the Bhavnagar State, then surely Wakhtsinhji is its architect. It was under him that it gained in size and strength, rose above its rivals, held its own and broke the power of its jealous rivals and the Kathis and emerged as the third State in the minutely fragmented peninsula. His reign encompassed the last phase of the age of distraction which marked the eighteenth century in India, and though Kathi trouble lasted through the reign of his successer, it was never the menace it was during his.

Essentially, this expansion was possible at the cost of the Kathis. Internecine strife had by now become almost endemic in the peninsula fanned as it was by the wide sanction accorded to the *baharwatia* method of regaining lost *giras* or land. Further, conflicts between the different clans were all too frequent and in these, the Kathis had suffered at the hands of the Jadeja in Central and North Saurashtra. The emergence of Bhavnagar as a powerful

kingdom policing central and south-east peninsula and possibly of Jamnagar carrying out a similar task in the north and Junagadh in the south and south-west and the centre, threatened to rob them of their freedom and possibly to squeeze them from their lands. The last quarter of the eighteenth century thus marked the prolonged attempt of the host of Kathi tribes to break through the forces which threatened them in an effort which virtually ended with the settlements made by Col. Walker. By then, a more stern and pervasive power had succeeded to the Mughal heritage ; the Kathi struggle continued half-hearted for a generation, only to abandon the unequal struggle and reconcile itself to the new environment.

Wakhtsinhji in his lifetime bore the brunt of this struggle; he was the most energetic, most involved and the most ambitious adversary who stood most to gain. His thrusts into Kathi preserves were also the most damaging. Both the Khasias and the Khumans reacted fiercely, but without success. They had the genius to forage, to raid, to plunder and the ability to weather through prolonged periods of stress and adversity. But they had little of the ability to organise, to plan a long term campaign against a superior foe. Like the Marathas though on a far smaller scale, they had the capacity to immobilise an unwieldy force but not to hold their own against superior strategy.

Wakhtsinhji's reign can be divided in two halves—the initial period of acquisition and expansion between 1772 and 1797 and the subsequent devoted mainly to consolidation.

At the time of his accession, the principality of Bhavnagar consisted, according to Col. Watson, of the following districts " Sihor, Gundi-ko-liak, Vartej, Umrala, Trapaj, Bhandaria, Dihor and a portion of the Sarvaiya taluka of Bakhalkha and some villages in the Bhal."[1] Since Bhavsinhji had declined to increase his dominions south of the Shatrunjaya, it was limited to its northern bank.

Wakhtsinhji's first acquisition, after eight years of rule was Talaja, which had earlier been handed over to Cambay by the British. The Nawab of Cambay (Momin Khan II) had been unable to control this distant outpost and the rule of his deputy here became onerous and distasteful to the people. Hence, he offered to sell it to Wakhtsinhji, an offer which was accepted. The deputy refused to accept the Nawab's order and attempted a resistance which was, however, easily overcome. Wakhtsinhji, under an engagement mediated by the British Government in 1773 was allowed to retain Talaja on paying a sum of Rs. 75,000.[2]

1. Watson J. W., *Statistical Account of Bhavnagar*, p. 80, 1910

2. Aitchison C. U., *Treaties, Engagements and Sunnuds Relating to the States within the Bombay Presidency*, Calcutta, p. 373, 1909

Talaja was the prelude to the conflict with the Kathis. Saurashtra, as noted earlier, was in the last quarter of the 18th century, in a state of chronic disturbances. Junagadh was held by Sher Khan Babi. In 1758 he had been succeeded by his son Mahabat Khan but the Nawab had narrowly escaped being displaced. Power then gathered into the hands of its remarkable minister Dewan Amarji under whom Junagadh gained in territory and influence. His very success, however, turned against him, and though in 1775, he was instrumental in securing the *gadi* for Hamid Khan, a boy of eight when Mahabat Khan died, yet by the time his protege gained to the years of discretion, he began to be jealous of his influential mentor; ultimately, he had him assassinated (March 6, 1784).

Even in his prime, Dewan Amarji had found it hard to safeguard Junagadh territories, much less to impose order though he did aim at achieving a dominating status for his master. He had to contend with the Kathis and gained the enmity of the ruler of Jamnagar. The emergence of Bhavnagar and the ambition of Wakhtsinhji to extend its power beyond the Shatrunjaya led the chief of Lathi and his *bhayat*, kinsmen and subsidiary landholders to ask him to be taken under his protection. Wakhtsinhji accepted this request, led his army through Lathi territory and extended his protection not only to Lathi but also to the Chudasamas of Bhal.

It was, however, the molestation of Talaja by Misri Khasia which brought Wakhtsinhji into direct conflict with the Khasia Kathis. Mahuva had been seized by the Kharedia Sipahis after the collapse of Mughal authority and from them it was snatched by Misri Khasia. Misri Khasia gave his nephew Hamir Khasia a village Waghnagar to which he added Jhanjhmer and raided Talaja villages. On these raids being reported to Wakhtsinhji, he attacked and captured Jhanjhmer, Hamir's headquarters, chased him to Gopnath where on the intercession of the Mahant of Gopnath with whom Hamir had sought refuge, and granted terms according to which Hamir was to restore seized villages and to refrain from molesting Bhavnagar territory.

Wakhtsinhji had already made some Khuman and Khachar Kathis to accept his overlordship; this dispute established his influence squarely in the south-east of the peninsula. In 1784, at the instance of Hamir Khasia and Gopalji Sarvaiya of Datha, he proceeded against Hamir's uncle Jaso who held Mahuva and who had committed a number of piracies including, the seizure of a Bhavnagar vessel.

The campaign against Mahuva, undertaken with fifteen thousand men was organised carefully. After Talaja, the expedition had cut through a thick jungle of *babul* trees and the battle raged for six days before Mahuva, until Wakhtsinhji's artillery managed to pierce the fort walls. This debacle forced Jaso to flee to Rajula and the town fell to Wakhtsinhji.

Mahuva was followed by Rajula, to which place Jaso Khasia had fled and where he attempted to persuade Bhola Dhankhdo to join him in recovering Mahuva. Wakhtsinhji marched to Rajula, captured it and placing a garrison at Rajula chased Jaso to Dedan where Danta Kotila did not harbour him but conciliated the Bhavnagar ruler with a *nazrana*. Wakhtsinhji now returned to his capital (1782). Wakhtsinhji's attention was also caught at this time by Kundla situated to the north-west and held at this time by the Khuman Kathi Alo. The occasion was the death of Alo and the succession dispute among his six sons among whom Bhoj, appealing to Wakhtsinhji agreed to transfer his share to Bhavnagar, reserving some portion for himself. This act, as he discovered on his return, was not popular with his brethren and he had to request his patron for an armed contingent which, however, was not allowed to enter Kundla. Wakhtsinhji collected a larger force but before he could move further two of the Kundla shareholders went to Junagadh and promised the Nawab a share in their heritage if he would expel its dominant ruler Mulu Khuman. A Junagadh force appeared before Kundla but was repulsed by Mulu Khuman.

This intervention by Junagadh probably halted Wakhtsinhji in an attack on Kundla. Further, he was now concerned also with the activities of Jaso Khasia who had retreated into the recesses of the Gir forest and taken to outlawry, termed *baharwatia*. It was reported to Wakhtsinhji that Hamir of Waghnagar whom he had spared earlier was aiding and abetting his uncle in his depredations. Consequently, the Jamadar of Mahuva was ordered to seize Bhavnagar which he did with the help of Rajula Behlims and the Ahirs of Bhanwad. Hamir thus fled to join his uncle Jaso in the Gir as also in outlawry.

At this moment, Wakhtsinhji also received a welcome assurance from the Bombay Government to whom he had written earlier informing them of his efforts to root out piracy and asking for assistance in case he was attacked by the Nawab of Junagadh. Though the Bombay Government does not seem to have committed itself on the second part of the letter, yet it congratulated the Bhavnagar ruler in his success.

With the success over the Khasia Kathis, the first phase of Wakhtsinhji's expansion was completed. The Koli hold of the seacoast leading to interference in Bhavnagar's sea-borne commerce had been terminated and consequently, the trade of that port had grown. The English alliance promised benevolent neutrality and support if not direct help. Junagadh was temporarily neutralised by its domestic distractions subsequent to the assassination of its dominant minister, Dewan Amarji. Wakhtsinhji thus judged the time ripe for extending his rule over Kundla; its Kathi chiefs were hardly strong enough to resist him while Junagadh, their main hope against Bhavnagar, for the time being, immobilised.

In 1790, Wakhtsinhji marched upon Kundla with a large army. On hearing of his advance, the Khuman chiefs patched up their quarrels and prepared for resistance. The town was cannonaded by Wakhtsinhji's artillery; the Kathis tried to surprise him by a night attack but in vain; they lost in the encounter. Finding resistance futile, the two Khuman chiefs, Mulu and Hado fled in the night to Mitiala, abandoning their town to Wakhtsinhji.

At Mitiala, the Khumans were joined by a small Junagadh contingent, a meagre help but which was the utmost Junagadh could manage. Wakhtsinhji marched to Mitiala and again dispersed the Kathis and left a garrison there. The balance was tilting steadily against Junagadh; the Kathis of Lilia and Gundran sought help from it but the utmost it could do was to send a small force under one Muhammad Tora. Rather, this invited the unwelcome attention of Wakhtsinhji. Leaving a garrison of Jankhra Sindhis, mercenary troops, in Kundla he marched against them, left garrisons in Saldi and other villages and returned to Bhavnagar.

The Kathis, as a whole, were now alarmed at the rising power of the Bhavnagar ruler which threatened to engulf them all, and against whom even Junagadh seemed to be helpless. The Kundla Khumans consequently repaired to Jetpur and with Vira Wala came to Chital of Kumbha Wala Here, probably after serious pondering, it was planned to have a joint 'front' of the Kathis as a whole against Wakhtsinhji. Summons were sent to the different Kathis—Wajsur Khachar of Jasdan, Thebanis of Paliyad, the Ramanis of Chotila, Gadakas of Gadhada and Botad and even the outlaw Khasias of the Gir forest. Not all but a majority responded and a formidable array was assembled at Chital.

Wakhtsinhji could not long remain in ignorance of the formidable Kathi host assembling against him. He also summoned his kinsmen, the collateral clans like the Dewani, Wachani, Govindani and Goghari and other Gohils of Vala and Lathi. Others also joined him, among them the Gowalia Kathis. Deciding to strike the first blow, Wakhtsinhji marched with his force and laid siege to the Kathi headquarters, Chital.

This sharp and challenging move found the weakest spot in the Kathi strategy. As Col. Watson noted, "the Kathi host, who at the best of times were better fitted for mounted raids than fighting pitched battles or defending walled towns." Wakhtsinhji, avoiding pitched battles, used his excellent artillery to good effect against Chital with the result that the Kathi confederacy melted away leaving the town with only a handful of defenders.

Wakhtsinhji consequently had no difficulty in assaulting and capturing Chital and dispersing the Kathi allies. Several of them were imprisoned, while Kumbha Wala fled to Jetpur and Wajsur Khachar returned to Jasdan.

Wakhtsinhji followed this success by an effective campaign against the Kathis. He pursued the dispersing allies to Kunkavav, returned to Chital and leaving a garrison there attacked Saldi, took it and proceeded to chastise the Kathis of Gadhada and Botad. Success attended him in the campaign and placing his men in Gadhada, Botad and other villages, he advanced to Babra itself which he spared on account of its being mortgaged to the Gaekwad.

Finally, he turned against Jasdan, against Wajsur Khachar and laid siege to the town. Wajsur undoubtedly found the Bhavnagar artillery too strong for himself and abandoned the town whose defences were dismantled. Wajsur could find no shelter in Bhoira from where too, he was expelled, the village falling to Wakhtsinhji. Finally, Wakhtsinhji completed the campaign by leaving garrisons in the northern possessions, recently secured and returned to Bhavnagar (1793).

Wakhtsinhji followed this success by making a conciliatory gesture towards his earlier Khasia adversaries. Jaso Khasia was now dead and Hamir made overtures through Gopalji Sarvaiya which the Bhavnagar ruler accepted. Peace was made on condition that neither Khasia nor his nephew Khimo should molest Bhavnagar or harbour those who did so. Hamir Khasia was then granted ten villages under Khedard and Khimo twelve under Monpur.

Wakhtsinhji's career of success against the Kathis was at this time interrupted by an interlude against Palitana. Its ruler Unadji Gohil, was descended from Sejakji through Shahji, the younger brother of Ranji and had established himself at Gariadhar. Visoji, one of the earlier Sihor rulers, as noted before, had succeeded in snatching that place from Kandhoji and for long Unadji is said to have harboured a desire to regain that place. Further, having consolidated his strength, he not only felt envious of his more powerful kinsman but also hoped to exploit his difficulties to gain the ancient objective. He had also gained Tana which could serve as a base against Sihor.

Unadji's advance from Tana found Wakhtsinhji at a disadvantage for he had at the moment curtailed his forces in an attempt to effect economy but having assembled whatever forces he could, he proceeded to Sihor. The Palitana force nevertheless could not have a successful march; Unadji was called back by his son who, it is said, had seen an unfavourable omen. The Palitana army, supported by Kathis nevertheless advanced against Sihor Wakhtsinhji's forces were numerically so inferior that his lieutenants would not allow him to lead the attack in person, but sent his forces led by a Girasia, Raimalji. Another mishap caused the discomfiture of the Palitana forces. One of the Khuman leaders was killed in the first encounter and as was their wont, the Kathis dismounted to carry off their dead. Raimalji took

advantage of the distraction and charged thus dispersing and wholly defeating the Palitana army. After placing his contingents in a few border villages, Wakhtsinhji returned to Bhavnagar (1794).

The Khumans continued the feud, though on their way to the Gir recesses they lost Mulu Khuman, their main leader who died on way. Hado Khuman on whom now the leadership devolved continued the struggle but again, after they had raided a village in Umrala, Wakhtsinhji managed to inflict a sharp defeat on them at Goghasamdi, a village in the Gadhada pargana. They took refuge in the Salimal hills while Wakhtsinhji returned to Sihor.

Another dispute with Palitana now developed owing to Unadji's resentment against his *bhayat*, the Wanani Girasias who though his kinsmen, served Bhavnagar. He, therefore, instigated the Kathis to plunder their villages. At first Wakhtsinhji placed a contingent at Randola for their defence, but finding this not adequate as Kathi inroads continued, he expelled the Kathis from these parts and took the Wananis under his protection.

In 1795, Wakhtsinhji was tested against the Marathas when Shivram Gardi, a Baroda official approached Bhavnagar for the annual tribute. Camping at Moti Dharai, Shivram intended to advance on Sihor as Wakhtsinhji sent to say that his country was barren and he could not afford to pay the tribute. Shivram threatened to occupy Bhavnagar, if the tributes with the past arrears were not paid, but Wakhtsinhji, relying on his exceptionally well-equipped artillery did not heed the threats. Shivram Gardi advanced towards Sihor and the battle was joined near Loliyana. For three days it went on inconclusively until Shivram realised that if he was foiled by Wakhtsinhji, his prestige would sink so low that he would not be able to realise any tribute from other chiefs. Consequently, he pulled out and marched away and Wakhtsinhji too did not hinder him for he had gained his point and his losses too had not been inconsiderable.

The indecisive conflict, however, had an epilogue. During this preoccupation, Unadji had attacked Sihor together with Hado Khuman and had been driven off by the Bhavnagar commandant Pattabhai. Now, Unadji approached Shivram Gardi at Hathsani and attempted to persuade him to attack Sihor. Informed of this, Wakhtsinhji with his usual daring attacked and cannonaded Palitana itself, doing much damage. Unadji returned precipitately to his capital and though confined within its walls, made such strenuous and valiant resistance that the Bhavnagar forces were compelled to raise the siege and retire.

The success against the Kathis, the repulse of Shivram Gardi and finally the humiliation of the Palitana ruler these were factors which were progressively making Wakhtsinhji and Bhavnagar into the major power in the peninsula, to the detriment of Junagadh Nawab Hamid Khan, having weathered

the storm which followed the removal of Dewan Amarji, viewed this development with anxiety. In 1796, he was presented with an opportunity to exploit the Kathi grievance against Bhavnagar for his own ends.

Mamaiyo Dhankhdo of Rajula, the brother of Bhola Dhankhdo from whom Wakhtsinhji had seized Rajula in 1784 was chafing under his control and sought Junagadh help promising the Nawab with his share in the village, once Bhavnagar troops had been driven out. At first, the Nawab sent a small force which was successfully resisted by the Behlim garrison but they were unable to withstand the 2,000 strong force which followed it.

In turn, Wakhtsinhji sent his *bhayat* Kayabhai to recover the place which he did with the help of Antaji Nagar of Mahuva and an additional levy from that place.

This reverse was a serious blow to the Nawab's prestige and Hamid Khan collected a large army to avenge it. He was also joined by the Kathis, Khachars, Khumans and Walas. The joint force marched on Kundla and seized it after a sharp engagement in which both Antaji and Kayaji were killed, Rajula too fell to the invaders.

With these successes and persuaded by his Kathi allies, Hamid Khan determined to march on Bhavnagar. At Waral, Wakhtsinhji checked him and here an indecisive conflict took place. However, the Nawab seemed to have lost his enthusiasm to march on Bhavnagar and withdrawing towards Lathi, he encamped at Jarakhia. Wakhtsinhji, following him camped at Dhasa. Next day, the armies engaged and an indecisive battle took place at the end of which both sides were happy to entertain and accept a peace proposal broached by Jiaji Jethwa, a kinsman of the Rana of Porbandar who had married Wakhtsinhji's sister. The terms as they finally emerged were that the Nawab was to resign all claims to Kundla, Rajula, Lilia and other lesser places and in return was to receive the *zor-talabi* tribute from Bhavnagar.

On the conclusion of the peace, Hamid Khan retreated to Dhandhalpur in the Panchal, while Wakhtsinhji returned to Bhavnagar (1796).

Wakhtsinhji was now feeling the strains of prolonged warfare initiated by his expansionist policy; also, it was now apparent to him that he may not be able to withstand a firm coalition of the Nawab of Junagadh and the Khuman and Khachar Kathis of Jetpur and Chital which may also be joined by Unadji Gohil of Palitana. The pursuance of a policy of conciliation and an appeal to the Kathis were, therefore, called for. Consequently, he offered to restore Chital to Kumbha Wala on condition that they refrained from helping the Khumans of Kundla against Bhavnagar. In 1797, the Kathi chief reoccupied his headquarters under these terms.

The defection of Kumbha Wala broke the Kathi alliance against Bhavnagar. The Nawab abandoned any further plans, if he had any, against Wakhtsinhji. The Khumans, finding themselves isolated finally submitted: Hado and other Khumans received Babriadhar and ten other villages. This generous treatment led Wajsur Khachar of Jasdan to come to terms though the privilege of having Jasdan goods pass duty-free through Bhavnagar was not renewed. Finally, a part of the lands which had been taken away from them were restored to the Khachars of Botad and Gadhada.

The conciliation effected with the Kathis thus ended the long-drawn feud which while costing Wakhtsinhji heavily in men and money had also served to raise his prestige and to expand Bhavnagar territory considerably. The excellent artillery which Wakhtsinhji had acquired and his mercenary Sindhis, Behlims and Arabs together with the militia led by his *bhayats* ably and loyally, had been the instruments through which he had been able to achieve this.

For the rest of his reign, he was engaged on consolidating his gains. Moreover, a change in the times was apparent. The rising influence of the English with whom Bhavnagar had been on friendly terms for nearly half a century posed problems of a different category.

In 1800, Ahmedabad fell into the hands of the Gaekwads who negotiated a five year farm of Peshwa's territories in Gujarat. In 1802, the treaty of Bassein made the British paramount in Gujarat. The Peshwa had already receded into the background by the cession of Ahmedabad; the Gaekwads too now passed under British influence.

Freed from his wars, Wakhtsinhji used the breathing spell to make a pilgrimage to Dwarka in 1800 and visit his brother-in-law, Sartanji of Porbandar. In 1804, he successfully repulsed the Gaekwadi *mulukgiri* force under Babaji Appaji which attacked Sihor and cannonaded it. This reverse led Babaji to attack Bhavnagar with redoubled strength next year (1805); camping near the Gadhechi river, he erected batteries against the town. Damage to the town was fairly great and led Wakhtsinhji to pay the tribute demanded and get rid of his unwelcome visitor.

In 1806, reconciliation was effected between Wakhtsinhji and his kinsman, Thakore Unadji of Palitana by the efforts of Jadeja Kumbhaji of Gondal whose son, Mulubhai had married Wakhtsinhji's daughter, Ajuba. At Lavarda the conciliation was celebrated by the two chiefs drinking the 'red cup' together.

In 1807, the famous Settlement effected by Col. Walker finally put an end to the distressing *mulukgiri* raids and also to a great extent to the internal disorder which had become endemic in the peninsula since the decline of

the Mughals. The Gaekwad now held the rights of the Peshwa in farm and his consent was not asked. The Peshwa objected but the treaty of 1817 extinguished whatever rights he had claimed. In 1820, the Gaekwad undertook not to make any demand save through the British; in 1822, the Nawab of Junagadh too agreed to the collection of his *zor-talabi* tribute through the British, surrendering a quarter for collection charges. By 1822, therefore, the British had emerged as the sole suzerain power in the peninsula and the chiefs had been compelled to regularise their relations both among themselves and with the British.

Wakhtsinhji thus came at last directly in contact with a power whom he had so far befriended with advantage to himself but whose emergence as the suzerain authority, he was to find not so agreeable.

Subsequent to the treaty of Bassein, the British had become entitled to the tribute to Peshwa. These rights were administered by the Resident in Baroda acting through an official stationed at Kaira (Kheda), called the Collector of the Eastern Division. The cession of Dhandhuka, Ranpur and Gogha to the British by the treaty of Bassein had led to their interference in these areas. Further, the Gaekwads too made over their rights of tribute in the State to the British in lieu of their payments for the subsidiary force. In the British, therefore, the rights of the Peshwa, the Gaekwad, Junagadh and of the Kiledar of Surat became united; and their insistent and forceful pressure was far too strong to be counteracted in the new environment which emerged after the collapse of indigenous powers.

In 1810, the tribute due from Bhavnagar to the Peshwa in Dhandhuka was enhanced by $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent and in the Gogha pargana by $9\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. In 1813-14, a more serious development took place. These were the years of severe famine in Saurashtra and under the stress of this scarcity, some low-caste people killed a cow for food. Appealed to by Brahmins and others and himself unable to tolerate this offence, Wakhtsinhji punished the offence by death.

The Collector appears to have already incurred a prejudice against Wakhtsinhji owing to earlier differences. He now interpreted this incident in its most extreme sense, stating that he was not an independent chief but a Zamindar, interpreting the word by the local usage in Bengal as middle man or rent-collector who stood between the *rayats* and the government. "He was ignorant", Col. Watson continues, "that the Mughal Government used the word Zamindar in Gujarat in the sense of the original landowners of the country whose possessions had been confirmed to them on conditions of service or tribute."

The Resident at Baroda supported the claims of Bhavnagar to be regarded as independent, bound by treaty stipulations only, while the Collector

advocated that the ruler was just a farmer of government right whose tribute may be increased at will. He advised the government to take from the ruler the right of criminal jurisdiction in the three parganas, to which the government, for this and other reasons, acceded in 1816, resuming also the civil jurisdiction. This proved to be a serious blow to Wakhtsinhji; "it is said to have hastened his end, Col. Walker noted, "and he died in the year and was succeeded by his son Wajesinhji."

Wajesinhji (1816-1852)

Wajesinhji was the last of the trio of notable rulers who built Bhavnagar and made it what it became. He was thirty-six years old when he succeeded his father. In 1817, a year after his accession, he met Captain Ballantyne, Assistant Resident at Baroda who had come to Saurashtra to arrange for *zor-talabi* payments to Junagadh and satisfactorily arranged the matters.

In 1820, he faced the last revival of Kathi trouble. The Khumans of Kundla, singularly unresponsive to the changed times, felt that with the death of Wakhtsinhji, the major threat to their freedom had been removed. Consequently, after putting Babariadhar and Barbatana to fire, they broke out into rebellion under Hado Khuman and plundered villages in Mitiala and Nesdi of Kundla pargana.

The Bhavnagar garrison in Kundla took prompt action but the main body of the Khumans managed to reach the Gir; only Ghelo Khuman, the eldest son of Hado Khuman, failing to reach Gir, sought refuge in the village Amba in Lilia pargana, where he was attacked and killed. "For this reason", Col. Watson noted, "Khumans will not drink water in Lathi territory to this day."

This loss inflamed the Khumans to further depredations against Bhavnagar; several Khumans and Mansur Khuman son of Jogidas Khuman were killed. But by now a third party had been added to the conflict. In 1820, the British Agency had been founded in Rajkot and Capt. Barnwell appointed as the first Political Agent. Captain Barnwell obviously could not countenance these disturbances, characteristics of an earlier, unruly era. He proceeded to Amreli, summoned the chiefs of the area, particularly Wajesinhji and the Gaekwad Suba and impressed upon them the necessity of subduing the trouble urgently, promising aid in the attempt.

Wajesinhji was agreeable to this and proceeding to Kundla, he found that the rebel Khumans were aided by the Walas of Jetpur and Chital. He represented this to the Agent who called the Walas who in turn denied the allegation. In 1823, however, after a Khuman raid they were found to be in Walardi and Gugrala villages of Jetpur and were attacked at Walardi. In the combat here and at Gugrala two sons of Jogidas Khuman and a younger daughter were captured and many Khumans killed.

This definitely associated the Walas with the Khumans and the Agent put Mulu Wala and other shareholders of Jetpur under confinement. Chastened by the experience, the Walas sought release, agreed to apprehend the rebels and provide securities for their good faith. By their efforts, the chief Khuman leaders, Jogidas, Hada, Viro and others were seized, handed over to Captain Barnwell and imprisoned by him.

In 1824, these leaders except two who had died in prison, with their sureties were handed over to Bhavnagar but Wajesinhji could not come to terms with them. Consequently, the sureties returned to their seats taking the Khumans with them. In the same year they again broke out into outlawry, taking shelter in the Gir.

The trouble continued till 1826 when the Kathis made a serious inroad into Bhavnagar carrying off the cattle of Dharuka and Piprali. Wajesinhji offered chase and though the Khumans managed to reach the Gir, they could not carry the cattle with them nor could they hope for any help. Wajesinhji still refused the Khumans satisfaction and also informed Captain Barnwell of their incursions. Exasperated, Jogidas Khuman decided to a bold step nothing less than the plunder of Bhavnagar itself.

Collecting a large force of the Khumans and others who were in outlawry against Junagadh, Jogidas arrived and camped at Palitana where he was helped by its chief Kandhoji. The nearest he reached to Bhavnagar was, however, the village of Nagdhaniba which he plundered. As he turned back Wajesinhji pursued him with four hundred men, sending a column ahead to prevent him from taking asylum at Palitana. The Khumans were overtaken near Timana where after a sharp encounter they managed to escape to Gir while the Thakore returned to Talaja.

In 1827, the raid was repeated as the Khumans fell on the village of Haliad and though pursued by the force from Sihor managed to get away. An attack on Sihor followed and though a stubborn conflict took place, they managed to reach Palitana.

Wajesinhji now realised the necessity of making up with the Khumans and in 1828, he called them to Bhavnagar for terms. At the same time he replaced his chief minister Shevakram Desai who had proved to be an inveterate foe of the Kathis. In 1829, peace was finally made with the Kathis on the terms which Col. Watson gives as under :

> " The Kathis surrendered the undermentioned villages and shares of villages as compensation for the damage they had inflicted, viz., a half share in Nesri, the entire village of Jira, a fourth share in Vijpari, a fourth share in Bhamodra Mohota, and a half of the village of Mitiala, Ambaldi, Bhamodra Nahana and Dolti and half of the remaining

three-fourths of Bhamodra Mohota, and in this year they also agreed to do military service."

This was sanctioned by the Bombay Government on the recommendation of the Agent, Mr. Blane. There was nevertheless to be one more outbreak before the old practice was given up for good.

In 1836, Sadul Khasia of Monpur whose forbears had held Mahuva until taken by Bhavnagar in 1784 attacked Jain temples in Shatrunjaya. On appeal by the Jains of Palitana, the Agent Mr. Blane directed Bhavnagar to produce the culprits or pay compensation. Pressed by the Darbar and induced by Champraj Wala, himself in outlawry, Sadul was persuaded to take a similar course and fled to the Gir. On his way, he was pursued by Wajsur Khuman of Bhamodra but managed to get away. Wajesinhji collected his force but the troops from Mahuva which were immediately molested failed to apprehend him.

In return, Wajesinhji sent an expedition under his son to raze Monpur fort and Sadul's house there; in 1838, Sadul plundered Depla and subsequently several other villages. At last, Wajesinhji appealed to the Agent against Junagadh under whose jurisdiction in the Gir, Sadul Khasia obtained refuge. In 1840, Sadul was finally captured, suffered a term of imprisonment and survived to retain Monpur, left to him for life.

Sadul's was the last serious outbreak in Bhavnagar. The age of outlawry was past, as a more orderly age emerged where rights could not be fought for and regained as in old. The last outbreak in fact was more of a nuisance value than a real struggle. The spirit, however, did not die out; Saurashtra did remain for an age more the stage for the picturesque outlaw.

In 1813-14, Saurashtra had been hit by a severe famine, in 1813, the rains failed and the next year there was excessive rainfall causing destructive floods. In Gohilwad, its impact was less severe than in the north and it consequently received a heavy burden of refugees. In 1825, a less severe famine struck the peninsula again. Wajesinhji procured grain from outside on his own and succoured the needy within his kingdom.

In 1830-31, the British officials at Gogha desired to enhance the importance of that port at the cost of Bhavnagar and imposed several discriminatory taxes and duties on the trade flowing to it. In 1839 the British Government suppressed the mint at Bhavnagar. Wajesinhji agreed to relinquish the right of coining money in consideration of an annual payment of Rs. 2,793-6-5 as compensation. A further sum of Rs. 4,000 was given to him in consideration of his resigning all claims to share in the land or sea customs of Gogha. These sums were annually paid to him under an agreement concluded on September 8, 1840.[1]

1. AITCHISON C. U., *Treaties, Engagements and Sunnuds Relating to the States within the Bombay Presidency*, Calcutta, p. 374, 1909

In 1847, one of the notable administrators of Bhavnagar, Azam Gaurishankar Udayashankar succeeded to the chief office in collaboration with Desai Santokhram Shevakram. Azam Gaurishankar's term of office, as will be noted later, was a notable one in the history of Bhavnagar.

In 1854, the last remaining problems of Settlement were decided. Col. Blane, the Political Agent awarded 76 disputed villages in Kundla to Bhavnagar in lieu of an annual payment of Rs. 9,000 to Junagadh. The Arabs, who in 1851 had seized Mahuva in lieu of arrears of pay, were also persuaded to give it up for discharge of their legitimate dues. Both these, successes, achieved by Azam Gaurishankar, contributed greatly to his credit.

In 1852, Wajesinhji, after an eventful reign of thirty-six years, died at the age of seventy-two. His eldest son having predeceased him, he was succeeded by his grandson Akherajji; he also passed away after a brief reign of about two years (1854). Dying without a male issue, he was succeeded by his younger brother, Jaswantsinhji.

JASWANTSINHJI (1854-1869)

This succession was the revival of the old dispute which had commenced in 1816 with the resumption of criminal and civil jurisdiction over 116 villages. A brief reference to this dispute and to the notable service rendered to the Bhavnagar State in its solution, may now be noted.

Basically, the dispute stemmed from the interpretation regarding the status of the ruler of Bhavnagar *vis-a-vis* the British—was he a Zamindar, a tributary of the Peshwa whose rights, particularly in the 116 villages had been created by the fact of his paying *jumma* to the Peshwa for these villages, and thus had been acquired by the British when these rights were ceded to them by the treaty of Bassein—or was he a chief in his own right exercising the rights of criminal and civil jurisdiction in these areas? By their order of 1815, the British had made the estates of the ruler subject to the Company's courts. Now it was made out that these villages could not be inherited by a collateral heir and consequently lapsed to the British.

The Bhavnagar ruler's cause was pleaded strenuously and effectively by Azam Gaurishankar Oza, the Dewan and he had the satisfaction of winning his case. The Political Agent Mr. Barr supported him in holding that the succession was fully legal and Jaswantsinhji was the full and rightful heir for these villages. The Bombay Government, upholding the views of the Political Agent recognised the succession and addressed to the Chief a letter of congratulation.

Though the question of succession was decided, the other one of jurisdiction remained. In 1859, the Bombay Government appointed Mr. Peile to go into the case and in 1860, he submitted a report to the government dealing with the claims of the Bhavnagar State. The dispute involved important issues among them as to whether Kathiawar States were to be regarded

as part of the British dominions or 'foreign' territories. It was referred to Home Government and an important Despatch, the Despatch of the Secretary of State in Council dated 31st August, 1864, dealt with it. Finally, in 1866 by a notification in the Gazette dated January 29, 1866, the jurisdiction over the 116 villages was restored to the ruler of Bhavnagar. This was the consummation of the long and laborious efforts made by the Dewan, Gaurishankar Oza. As a token of recognition of his services, Jaswantsinhji conferred on him a village in the Botad pargana. This was followed in 1867 by the conferment of the title of K. C. S. I. on him. Col. Keatinge, the Political Agent referred to the able services of the Dewan in his letter to Jaswantsinhji. Jaswantsinhji was granted in 1862 a Sanad guaranteeing to him the privilege of adoption.[1]

TAKHTSINHJI (1869-1896)

Jaswantsinhji, however, did not long survive this honour. On April 11th, 1869, he died in the forty-third year. his eldest son and heir, Takhtsinhji being a minor. This was the occassion for a long period of Joint Administration of the State; by Azam Gaurishankar Oza, the experienced and able Bhavnagar administrator and Mr. E. H. Percival C. S. deputed by the Bombay Government. This administration commencing from 1870 lasted till April 5th, 1878 when Takhtsinhji was vested with full authority.

The period of Joint Administration produced some notable reforms. The first and the most notable was the overhaul and reorganisation of the revenue administration. The older system of crop sharing was gradually given up in favour of *khata-bandi* or cash payments beginning with 1872. Village administration was patterned on the British model. Rules for State officials were framed. A revenue survey was undertaken.

Simultaneously, public works of importance were begun. One of the most important was the construction of a reservoir to meet the long-felt need for drinking water. This was completed in 1872. Named as Gaurishankar Lake, it came to be popularly known as Gaga-talav according to the name fondly given to the Dewan. A cotton mill and ginning press was also established. A number of wells and tanks were dug to facilitate irrigation. Near Mahuva, a sandy patch was chosen for an experiment in tree plantation.

Roads also were built to link the different parts of the State. Large scale public works were undertaken to improve the Bhavnagar town. Roads were widened; an old market, Radhanpuri, was reshaped by razing old houses and widening the street to admit greater traffic. A number of other public buildings in which Azam Gaurishankar had a personal interest, were also constructed.

1. AITCHISON C. U., *Treaties, Engagements and Sunnuds Relating to the States within the Bombay Presidency*, Calcutta, p. 375, 1909

Encouragement was also given to increase the building of residential and other houses. The beginning in local administration was made with the foundation of the municipality in Bhavnagar in 1871, a process which by degrees was also extended to Mahuva, Kundla, Sihor and other places.

A beginning had earlier been made in the foundation of schools to encourage education among the people. In 1853, a Gujarati school had been started in Bhavnagar while in Rajkot, an English school had been established. Consequent to a visit of the Governor of Bombay to Bhavnagar in 1856, an English school was established; such schools were founded in other centres too. Despite difficulties, in 1859, Azam Gaurishankar succeeded in establishing a small girl's school with the support of the then ruler Jaswantsinhji.

By 1865, Bhavnagar State had one English medium school in Bhavnagar town, seven Gujarati primary schools and four girl's primary schools. In 1871, the five schools in Sihor, Kundla, Mahuva, Botad and Talaja were raised to second-grade Anglo vernacular schools. In 1872, the Bhavnagar School was made into a high school.

Agreements with the British Government concerning salt and opium, the two state monopolies, were entered into. A further agreement, for the construction of a telegraph line was also made in 1874.[1]

The work of Azam Gaurishankar Oza as an administrator was recognised by the British Government, when on the occasion of the assumption of the title of Empress of India by Queen Victoria, the title of C. S. I. was conferred on him on January 1, 1877.

Another important direction in which preparatory work was undertaken during the period of Joint Administration was railway construction. This was not without difficulties. In 1872, the Wadhwan branch of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway had been opened but apprehensions of a possible loss had inhibited its extension to Bhavnagar. In 1877, its commencement was sanctioned as a famine relief work but the Bombay Government proposed to link the line, the Bhavnagar-Botad-Gondal line with Gogha, not Wadhwan. This was opposed by the Joint Administration and particularly by Azam Gaurishankar as affecting the commerce of the port of Bhavnagar. Matters stood thus when the Joint Administration terminated.

In March 1879, soon after the assumption of power, Takhtsinhji made to the Bombay Government an offer to construct the line from Wadhwan to Bhavnagar with an extension towards Dhoraji at his own cost and responsibility. It was completed in December 1880 and opened by the Governor of Bombay, Sir James Fergusson. It proved to be a blessing to the area

1. AITCHISON C. U., *A collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sunnuds Relating to Indian and Neighbouring States*, Vol. VII, Calcutta, p. 194 ff., 1892

particularly in the days of the severe famine of 1899-1900 and was also pecuniarily most rewarding.

The last year of the 1870 decade also proved to be the last year of the notable administrator who had, after a service of more than half a century to the State, thought it fit to lay down the burden of state. He was seventy-four; he had joined State service at the age of seventeen in 1822. In 1847, he had been named Co-Dewan with Desai Santokhram Shevakram and had been instrumental in solving a series of knotty problems which had beset the State-Agency trouble, 76 villages of Kundla to which Junagadh laid claim, Arab Jamadars and their claim and the problem of jurisdiction.

Essentially, however. Azam Gaurishankar's major contribution was towards the base work of excellent administration which he was mainly instrumental in creating both under Jaswantsinhji and in the period of Joint Administration. It was on this basis that the subsequent structure was raised, a structure which entitled Bhavnagar to rank as one of the best administered Indian States. Tributes to him were not lacking in his own life time; Takhtsinhji acknowledge his services in a public darbar held on the occasion of his retirement on January 23, 1879.

Azam Gaurishankar's life and work spanned an era. At the one end, he belongs to the age of men like Dewan Amarji who were astute players at the chaotic power-game of 18th century Saurashtra; at the other, he is one with the notable administrators like Sir T. Madhav Rao and Sir Dinkar Rao who showed that authoritarian rule need not necessarily mean bad gover. ment. Obviously, good government was no substitute for self government but that was a concept which was yet to come.

After his retirement, he lived for thirteen years more, full of years and honours. He devoted himself to the study of Vedanta, wrote a book on its formally embraced *sanyast* in 1886 and passed away on December 1, 1891.

Young Takhtsinhji, with the help of Azam Samaldas as Dewan, trained in the school of his predecessor, continued the work of Joint Administration. Administration was improved by the revision of civil and criminal laws. A State Council of four with portfolios divided amongst its members was formed. The first division was Political and Revenue with the Dewan; Judicial and Police with the Judicial Councillor; Finance with the Finance Councillor and finally Public Works with the State Engineer and Public Works Councillor.

Another notable contribution was the bifurcation of judicial from executive functions, probably the earliest attempt in this direction. Forced labour or *veth* too was abolished. It may be noted that Sir M. M. Bhownuggree who retired on pension as the Second Councillor in the first Council became a member of the British Parliament almost immediately after.

Education was encouraged by increasing the number of schools and by the foundation of the Samaldas College in 1884. Large grants were also made to both the Gujarat College in Ahmedabad and the Fergusson College in Poona. In 1882, the foundations of the Barton Library and Museum were laid. An Urdu school, it may be noted, was also opened at Bhavnagar.

Among his other reforms may be mentioned an Age of Consent Act for the State, abolition of the traditional practice of *nazrana* and a Public Conveyance Act. Mindful of the interests of his Rajput clansmen, he encouraged them to take to education and on the passing of the Gujarat Talukdari Act, he adopted a measure for the relief of indebted Girasias and *bhayats.*

Among his public works may be counted some of the most notable structures in Bhavnagar, construction of Port Albert Victor and the construction of a number of wells. The famine of 1889 was faced efficiently; the problem of the poor led to the foundation of a poor house in Bhavnagar.

In brief, Takhtsinhji proved himself to be an able ruler, conscious of his responsibilities. Unfortunately, he died young on January 29, 1896.

The last decade of the 19th century and the first years of the 20th were years of famine and scarcity. Particularly the years 1889-90 were scarce years followed by plague which struck Western India in 1896-97. The years which followed were truly bad; plague reappeared in 1899-1900 but the famine which struck in these years was something unprecedented.

BHAVSINHJI II (1896-1919)

It was on February 10, 1896 that Bhavsinhji succeeded his father. The preceding lean years and the heavy expenditure on public works had left a depleted treasury. To this was added the necessity of coping with the compelling realities. Plague fortunately for Bhavnagar did not prove a difficult problem. Special hospitals, camps and other preventive measures in 1896 succeeded in checking a wider spread of the disease. In 1900, similar measures checked the disease again. Here it may be remarked that Col. Hunter, the Political Agent was impressed by the steps the State took to check the disease in 1896; he told the ruler that he had come to advise but stayed to learn.

The famine relief measures adopted to meet the challenge of 1899-1900 have been described in a special report. Broadly, the measures were similar to those adopted in the neighbouring Baroda State and in the British territories. The drought of 1897 was serious enough to require the formulation of a Famine Code and the opening of relief works. Then followed the unalloyed famine of 1899-1900, as severe in Bhavnagar as elsewhere. "Out of a population of 483,000". the Administration Report for 1901-02 states "it was estimated that 59,000 were severely affected, 164,000 moderately

affected and 250,000 lightly affected. But later calculations put the figures much higher than this."

Relief works like the construction of wells and roads were taken in hand; in May 1900, the number touched the highest figure at 37,069. Poor houses were started for weak persons. Subsidiary measures took care of impecunious *bhayats* and Mulgirasias. *Tagavi* loans were given and State pasture lands thrown open for cattle grazing. In brief, the famine expenditure of the State in various forms reached over twenty-three lakhs of rupees not far short of the revenue of an average year. Added to this was the shortfall in the collection of revenue itself; the uncollected balance which with additional miscellaneous revenue had to be totally remitted amounted to 57·2 per cent.

These expenses and the loss of revenue involved the State in heavy financial deficits. These were met by economising spread over a course of years but without resorting to tapping fresh sources of revenue.

The beginning of the twentieth century found Bhavnagar with a fairly reliable and efficient administrative machinery which had been tested by the recent adversities. The first published Report on the administration thus deals with 1901-02 though such reports had been prepared for some years past. Based on the model of the Bombay Administration Reports, this Report too provides the picture of a well-run bureaucratic administration based on recognised hierarchy and definition of duties. It also shows the creation of survey mechanisms for the collection of statistical data as also efficient account and audit administration. Public welfare departments like education, health and public works were well-staffed and well-run.

One of the measures which were probably taken under the stress of famines was the abandonment of the Council system and the restoration of Dewan as the *de facto* head of administration, assisted by the Naib Dewan and the Judicial Assistant. The separation of executive and judicial functions was continued to become a marked feature of Bhavnagar administration, the judicial administration being placed under the final authority of the Huzur Court presided over by the ruler. Larger towns were provided with municipal administration supervised by a committee composed of official and non-official members. In education too, Bhavnagar presented a favourable picture in comparison to other parts of the peninsula. The 1901-02 Report records that while in Saurashtra as a whole, "17·75 males and 0·22 females are returned in the Census as literate, this State shows 18·43 of the former and 1·71 of the latter."

In 1909, the title of Maharaja was bestowed on Bhavsinhji by the Government and in the First World War, he rendered notable assistance which led to his salute being raised to fifteen guns, in 1918.

The same year was marked by two notable advances. The Municipal Committee of Bhavnagar was enlarged, twenty of the members being elected and ten nominated who may or may not be officials. Secondly, in the same year a People's Representative Assembly[1] was established for the whole State. It was to consist of thirty-eight members, nominated on a given basis, representing all the major interests in the State *bhayats*, Girasias, traders, municipalities, cultivators and others. This Assembly was to receive an annual report from the Dewan, and a programme of activities for the following year. Members were given the right of interpellation. This was again a pioneer measures. Undoubtedly, the principle of election was not applied, nomination being resorted to; but the very fact of such an institution being founded was notable. It was obviously not the intention of the Administration to introduce even the preliminaries of a representative or responsible government for the Assembly was purely a consultative one designed to keep the administration in touch with important segments of public opinion.

In the economic sphere, a significant move towards the amelioration of agrarian indebtedness was the encouragement given to the co-operative movement. In 1917, a beginning was made in the establishment of agricultural co-operative societies. The basis was co-operation and joint liability. The Report for the year 1917-18 recorded a total of 339 societies with a capital of Rs. 58,062 and a total of 11,633 members. In the social sphere one of the important reforms instituted by the State was total prohibition which came into being in 1919. In this respect Bhavnagar was probably again a pioneer.

Bhavsinhji, during his rule of nearly a quarter of a century, proved himself to be an able and sagacious ruler; he was also served by able Dewans like Sir Prabhashankar D. Pattani and Dewan Bahadur Tribhuvandas K.Trivedi. Sir Prabhashankar was made a member of the Executive Council of the Bombay Government in 1912 and a member of the Central Legislative Council in 1917 and then a member of the Council of the Secretary of State.

KRISHNAKUMARSINHJI (1919-1965)

Bhavsinhji, passed away on July 17, 1919 leaving a young successor, Krishnakumarsinhji. This necessiated a Regency Council consisting of Sir Prabhashankar D. Pattani as President, and Col. Burke and then Col. Moss, Dewan Bahadur Tribhuvandas K. Trivedi and Khan Bahadur Goghawala as members. The Council of Administration continued till 1930 when Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji ascended the *gadi* on attaining majority.

The aftermath of the First World War, the advent of Gandhiji on the national scene, the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms could not fail but to have an effect on Saurashtra and Bhavnagar. By now, the need of

1. Vide Annexure I for details of the People's Representative Assembly.

self-government was being felt; good government, it was felt, was not enough. In a written petition to the Regency Council, the members of the Representative Assembly urged the desirability of adopting the practice of election in the selection of representatives. In his Report to the same Assembly on December 15, 1921, Sir Prabhashankar D. Pattani, President of the Council expressed his inability to accede to this request in the tenure of a minority administration.

Though the Congress had deliberately limited its sphere of activity to British India and though the rulers and at their back the Political Department did not view the spread of nationalist feeling in the States with any enthusiasm, it was not possible to stem the progress of such ideas. A *khedut* movement in Bhavnagar, though not politically oriented, was in the opinion of State officials, "commenced by certain outsiders seeking notoriety and having no relation with agriculture" (1921-22 Report).

Under the influence of nationalist ideas, the Kathiawar Political Conference came into being and it held its third session in Bhavnagar, presided over by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji, it may be noted here, had studied at the Samaldas College and had been once here before in 1915 in connection with the Gokhale Memorial Fund. In 1925, he arrived here as the President of the Kathiawar Political Conference. In 1934, he visited it once again in connection with his work for Harijan welfare.

Under the leadership of Sir Prabhashankar Pattani, several notable administrative reforms were introduced. An Enquiry Committee was appointed in 1922 under the chairmanship of Dewan Bahadur T. K. Trivedi to investigate the problem of agrarian indebtedness. On the basis of its recommendation a Debt Redemption Scheme was devised, simultaneously with the Agriculturists' Relief Act. These measures were aimed at preventing the cultivators being subjected to usurious interest rates while assuring the moneylenders their principal with some interest. By March 1934, the work of debt redemption had been finished. Their measures led to the improvement of the economic condition of the agriculturists and significant improvement in revenue recoveries; it may be noted that this attempt was among the first of its nature made in India. Simultaneously, beginning in 1929 an attempt was made to introduce the panchayat system in the villages based on a flexible pattern. This measure was made to encourage the villages to undertake the management of local affairs; the panchayats could utilise the Village Improvement Fund and handle the collection of revenue. Handicrafts like spinning and handweaving were also popularised and the co-operative movement strengthened. The Gram Panchayat Act of 1943 was an improvement as it provided for election and defined the rights and responsibilities of the panchayats. It also divided them in three classes, model, medium or fair according to their "capabilities and nature of working, etc."

Both the co-operative society movement and the gram panchayats appear to have made considerable headway in the State. This was partly due to the interest taken in and the encouragement offered by the State administration.

Irrigation was also given the attention which was particularly directed towards well construction in rural areas. Several irrigation tanks like the Ambla, Ramdhari and Valavad were also commissioned. Adequate arrangements for the supply of pure drinking water to Bhavnagar town together with its municipal administration, made it one of the most progressive towns in Saurashtra.

Reference has already been made to the introduction of representative institutions in the State. A very enlightened and progressive ruler that His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji was, he introduced a number of reforms and other measures conducive of the welfare of the people. In Samvat 1998/1941 A. D. the Bhavnagar Dharasabha Act[1] was passed. It accepted the principle of election by providing for 33 elected, 16 nominated and 6 *ex-officio* members. The Dharasabha was given the power to discuss and vote on the budget. Members were also allowed to ask questions and initiate legislation which required the prior consent of the ruler.

The State of Bhavnagar on the whole maintained throughout the pre-Independence period, its tradition of good government, progressive economic and agrarian measures and an englightened and liberal educational policy. Measures like these made it not only the most progressive State in the peninsula but also one of the best governed Indian States in the whole of the country. Its measures like the Debt Redemption Scheme, gram panchayats and co-operation attracted attention from all other parts of India.

It may be mentioned here that the State regularly published Administration Reports, beginning with 1902-03. These Reports together with the Reports of special committees like the Khedut Debt Inquiry Committee and special publications like the Famine Code give a fair idea of the growth of the administrative system in Bhavnagar State. At the time of Independence, Bhavnagar was the most progressive and well administered State with the largest revenue in the peninsula.

INDEPENDENCE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FOR BHAVNAGAR

It was with this background that Bhavnagar arrived at the threshhold of Independence with its new necessities, particularly the rising insistence on the democratisation of administration. Feeling the change of the age, the Maharaja of Bhavnagar approached Gandhiji on whose advice he decided

1. Vide Annexure II for details of the powers and functions of the Dharasabha.

that responsible government should be introduced in Bhavnagar. Shri Balwantrai Mehta, later to be the Chief Minister of Gujarat, was to be the first Premier. The Maharaja also agreed to accept the Privy Purse that might be settled by Gandhiji. Sardar Patel inaugurated the installation of responsible government in Bhavnagar on January 15, 1948 in what V. P. Menon, described as an "epoch-making function".

The introduction of responsible government in the princely State of Bhavnagar had exerted a profound influence on the course of events and created a climate for similar reforms elsewhere and ultimately for integration, and formation of the Union of Saurashtra which was inaugurated by Sardar Patel at Jamnagar on February 15, 1948. The Jam Saheb of Nawanagar became the Raj-Pramukh and the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, the Up-Raj-Pramukh of this new State. Bhavnagar was again the first among the Kathiawar States to hand over its administration, which made it a part of the newly formed district of Gohilwad, consisting of the former States of Bhavnagar, Palitana, Lathi, Vala, Jafrabad and Raisankali and the Agency areas of Songadh, Dedan and Lakhapadar. In 1959, administrative requirements necessitated an interchange and transfer of certain areas. Rajula and Lilia mahals with most of their villages, the entire Jafrabad mahal and some villages in Kundla taluka and Umrala and Gadhada mahals were transferred to the enlarged Amreli district from Bhavnagar district to which Gogha mahal was transferred from Amreli. The name was also changed from Gohilwad to Bhavnagar.

On May 1, 1960, when the Gujarat State was formed, Bhavnagar became a part of this State.

His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji died in 1965, and the Yuvaraj Virbhadrasinhji succeeded him as Maharaja.

PALITANA

Palitana was the chief town of a pargana under the Mughal Government and was the site of an imperial *thana*. Its present rulers derive their origin from Gohil Shahji (one of the sons of Sejakji) who was granted the *tapa* of Mandvi by the Rao of Junagadh on the occasion of the marriage of Shahji's sister Valam Kunvarba to the Rao. According to another version, Sarangji his elder brother, gave this *tapa* to Shahji.

The Palitana branch of Gohils thus represents the descendents of Shahji one of the 3 sons of Ranoji. The Gohils of Mandvi acquired Gariadhar after some years and shifted their capital there. Shahji was succeeded by his son Sarjanji and the latter by Arjanji I. The next chiefs were Noghanji I, Bharoji, Banoji, Shavoji I, Hadoji, Kandhoji I and Noghanji II successively. The last had a, feud with the celebrated Loma Khuman of Kherdi, who deprived him of Gariadhar. With the aid of Akherajji of Sihor, Noghanji

recovered it afterwards. He then made peace with Loma Khuman and granted him the village of Ranigam.

Noghanji II was succeeded by Arjanji II and the latter by Kandhoji II, who was succeeded by Shavoji II. Shavoji was much harassed by the Khuman Kathis and was finally slain in war at the village of Khara near Gariadhar. The next chiefs that followed successively were Sartanji I, Kandhoji III, Prathirajji and Noghanji III. The last was succeeded by Sartanji II, who was treacherously killed at Palitana in about 1766, by his *bhayat* Alubhai who usurped the throne. The capital was shifted from Gariadhar to Palitana in the meantime.

Odha Khuman of Ansodar killed Alubhai and seated Unadji, the brother of Sartanji, on the throne of Palitana. But he kept Unadji in subjection and did not permit him to have a voice in the government. But Unadji contrived to expel him. He was afterwards at feud with Pitha Khuman as well as with Wakhtsinhji of Bhavnagar. He consolidated his rule and maintained a respectable force. Once, however, he attacked Sihor unsuccessfully when Wakhtsinhji was fighting with Shivram Gardi, the commander of the Gaekwad forces. In retaliation for this Wakhtsinhji harried the Gariadhar district and besieged Palitana, but Unadji made so stout a defence that the former was obliged to retire without taking the place.

However, the maintenance of a large force for many years as well as the ravages of Wakhtsinhji in the Gariadhar district plunged the chief deeply in debt. Large sums were owing to Vakhatchand Khushalchand, the *nagarsheth* of Ahmedabad, who had a hereditary connection with the sacred hill of Shatrunjaya. The estate was consequently held in farm by Vakhatchand and his successors. In consequence the State remained embarrassed from 1821 to 1843. It was during the reign of Noghanji IV that prince Pratapsinh, who conducted most of the State affairs even during the life time of his father, emancipated the State from the farm (1844 A.D.) and tried his best to clear off the debt. He then devoted his attention to making the State rich and populous. He succeeded his father in 1860 and introduced many improvements during his short rule. He died wihin a few months after his accession and was succeeded by his son Sursinhji, who contributed much to the flourishing condition of his State.

Sursinhji died in 1885, and was succeeded by his son Mansinhji. Mansinhji was granted in 1890 a Sanad giving him the privilege of adoption. On his death in 1905, Bahadursinhji came to the *gadi*, at the age of 5. During his minority a Council of Regency was constituted to look after the affairs of the State. He was invested with full powers of the State in 1919. To associate the people of the State with the general administration of the State and to enable them to tender advice in matters of public importance a Praja Pratinidhi Sabha consisting of 30 non-official members, 7 official members, the Dewan and the Thakore Saheb was constituted in 1930. The Pratinidhi

Sabha played an active role in the conduct of public affairs. Bahadursinhji also held a Sanad of adoption. It was during the reign of Bahadursinhji that the State along with other princely States in the peninsula was merged into Saurashtra. It is now a taluka of Bhavnagar district. Bahadursinhji died in 1965 and was succeeded by his son Shivendrasinhji.

VALA

THE HOUSE OF VALA OR VALLABHIPUR

As seen earlier, the Valas ruled at Vallabhipur (Vala) till about the middle of the tenth century when they were driven out by Mulraj Solanki of Patan who established his authority as far as Gogha. The next wave of conquerers that swept over Vala (Vallabhipur) was that of the Gohils. Ranoji of the generation next to Sejakji conquered Vala in about 1260 A. D. and slew Ebhal Vala II. However, the triumph of the Gohils was but short lived, and they were overthrown by Muhammadans in 1297-98. Vala was then ruled by Muhammadan viceroys appointed by the Mughal emperors till the death of emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 A.D. when it passed into the hands of Bhavsinhji, the founder of Bhavnagar who assigned Vala with two other villages to Visoji, the founder of the Vala house. Visoji is said by some to have been a twin brother of Akherajji of Bhavnagar who succeeded his father Bhavsinhji. After the death of Bhavsinhji, Visoji disputed the claim of Akherajji as a result of which the relations between them became strained. Visoji made further conquests and founded an independent kingdom. However, he made himself so useful to the viceroy of Gujarat, Maharaja Abheysing of Jodhpur, and to his deputy Ratansing Bhandari, that he was permitted to enlarge his patrimony by conquests from the Kathis and others, provided always that he agreed to pay the *jama* to the Muhammadan government. This he willingly agreed to do. Visoji had three sons named Nathubhai, Kayabhai, and Jethubhai and one daughter Magjiba. Magjiba was betrothed to Nawab Hamid Khan of Junagadh who died whilst Magjiba was on her way to be married to him. Magjiba though pressed by her attendants to return home refused to do so, and proceeding to Junagadh, circumambulated the deceased Nawab's tomb and resided at Junagadh for several years. Finally when she returned to Vala, she received the village of Bholad for maintenance. Visoji died in 1774 and was succeeded by his son Nathubhai, who employed himself in consolidating his taluka and was careful not to provoke the hostility of Bhavnagar. On his death in 1798, he was succeeded by his son Maghabhai who followed his father's footsteps and acquired several more villages from Gohils, Saiyads and others. In spite of the opposition of Bhavnagar, he contrived by careful negotiations to retain the village of Pipal. Maghabhai was ruling at Vallabhipur when Col. Walker's Settlement of the tribute of the Kathiawar chiefs was concluded. He died in 1814 and was succeeded by his son Harbhamji. Maghabhai had two other sons, named Patabhai and Adabhai, of whom Patabhai received Dared and other villages and Adabhai Kanpur and others in *giras*.

In Harbhamji's time there was a skirmish with the Lathia Girasias of Vavdi. Harbhamji had two sons, Kalyansinh, who died during his father's life time; and Daulatsinh who died as a minor in 1840. Harbhamji himself died in 1838, and on the death of Daulatsinh, Harbhamji's younger brother Patabhai of Dared and Hamirji, who was also the son of Harbhamji by a *Khavasan* (mistress), became claimants for the *gadi*. But an arrangement was made whereby Hamirji received Rajpura in Giras, while Patabhai succeeded to the *gadi*.

Patabhai does not seem to have taken any interest in the State matters. He died in 1853 and was succeeded by his son Prathiraj, who survived his father by only seven years, dying in 1860. He was succeeded by his son Meghrajji (then a minor). During Meghrajji's minority, the administration was at first conducted by the Agency attachment, but afterwards he was installed to the *gadi* with full authority. In 1868, however, the State was so overburdened by debt, that it became necessary to appoint an administrator under Agency supervision, the Thakore receiving a fixed sum for his expenses. In 1875, Thakore Meghrajji died and was succeeded by his son Vakhatsinh, then a minor. The administration of the State was conducted by a manager under the supervision of the Assistant Political Agent, Gohilwad. During this management the State was freed from debt, and was put in a sound financial condition. After Vakhatsinhji, his son Gambhirsinhji came to the *gadi* and during his reign, the State along with other princely States in the peninsula, was merged into Saurashtra. Vallabhipur is now the mahal headquarter in Bhavnagar district.

LATHI

The house of Lathi sprang from Sarangji, the son of Ranoji. Sarangji and his descendants ruled at Arthila for four generations when Ra Mandalik of Junagadh conquered and sacked Arthila and slew Dudoji, the then ruling chieftain. The Gohils of Arthila then withdrew to Lathi which they held till the merger of the State in 1948.

When Zafar Khan, the last governor of the Sultanate of Delhi, (1394-1403) sacked the Somnath temple, Hamirji Gohil, the younger brother of Dudoji, sacrificed himself in defence of the sacred shrine. The event is recorded in a memorial stone erected near the temple. Poet 'Kalapi' composed an epic on this heroic ancestor of his.

When the Lathi chieftain was unable to pay his tribute to the Gaekwad and was also much harassed by the chiefs of Bhavnagar and Palitana, he gave a daughter in marriage to Damaji Gaekwad along with the taluka of Chabhadial in dowry. After this alliance the Gaekwad protected Lathi and the tribute was reduced to the token tribute of a horse.

1. It was subsequently named after Damaji, Damnagar.

KALAPI

In the twenty-second generation from Sarangji flourished Lakhaji. He suppressed the Kathis that harassed the people of the region around Lathi.[1] Lakhaji was succeeded by his elder son Dajiraj *alias* Amarasinha but he expired after a short time. He left only a daughter who was married to the renowned chief Dajiraj of Wadhwan. From Amarasinha the throne of Lathi passed to his younger brother Takhtasinhji. He had three sons, viz., Bhavsinhji, Surasinhaji and Vijaysinhaji. Bhavsinhji died a premature death while he was studying in the Rajkumar College at Rajkot. Hence Surasinhaji became the heir-apparent at the age of 12. The Agency put the State under management. The prince was married to princess Rajba of Roha (Kutch) as well as to princess Anandiba of Kotda Sangani in Saurashtra. He left the College in 1891 and was deputed on a tour of India. During the tour he visited many places from Rawalpindi and Srinagar in the north to Rameshwaram in the south. In 1895 Surasinhaji assumed the reins of Lathi. He was endowed with the heart of a poet and his mind was ardently devoted to the peaceful life of eternal love. He loved his wives and children, but his heart was attached to Monghi, the young amiable maid-servant of Rajba. He struggled hard to forget her, but could not help marrying her at the end. Monghi *alias* Shobhana had proved to be a fathomless source of inspiration to the poet and is well-known as heroine of his celebrated poem *Hridava Triputi* (The Trinity of Hearts), wherein he had depicted the intricate problems of the triangle of love.[2] Surasinhaji composed and published his poems under the pseudonym Kalapi (Peacock). Many of his lyrics have attained a prominent place in Gujarati poetry. The anthology published under the title *Kalapi-no-Kekarav* was one of the most popular works of the time. *Hamirji Gohel* and *Mala* and *Mudrika* are his other important works. Surasinhaji did not survive long after his marriage with Shobhana (1893). His life was cut off by a premature demise at the age of 26 in 1900. He was succeeded by his son Pratapasinhaji who did not enjoy a long reign. His son and successor Prahladsinhaji, who succeeded to the *gadi*, in 1918, was a man of literary outlook and contributed to Gujarati literature under the pseudonym Rajhamsa. During his reign the principality along with other princely States in the peninsula, was merged into Saurashtra and it became a part of Gohilwad district. It has since been transferred to *Amreli district in 1959*. On his death in 1966 he was succeeded by his son Bhupendrasinhji.

Popular and Political Trends before 1948

Political changes taking place in the Indian States towards the close of the first half of the twentieth century were two fold. One phase related to

1. Vide the Gujarati saying '*Chare kor Kathi, ne vachche Lakhani Lathi*' (The Kathi all around; Lathi of Lakha in the midst).
2. Therein the poet refers to Rajba as 'Ramo'.

the broadening of the sphere of larger States by the introduction of what was then known as the Attachment Scheme formulated by the paramount power with the object of attaching smaller States to larger ones for certain specified purposes. Another phase related to popular agitation started in some of the Indian States for associating the people in the democratic forms of government as a result of the impact of similar movements going on in full swing in the neighbouring British districts. Before both these aspects of political reforms are examined it is necessary to refer to the institution of Mahajan which exercised a wholesome check on the arbitrary powers of the rulers of Gohilwad.

The Mahajan

The form of government which existed in this part of the country, prior to Independence, was a monarchical form of government, wherein the will of the ruler prevailed. There were, however, certain popular checks and balances which the ruler could not ignore and thought it wise to respect not only in the interest of his people but also in his own interest. Public sentiment and opinion in those days found expression through a unique institution, called the Mahajan which consisted of the leading citizens in every taluka or mahal and also at the capital, drawn from representatives of different professions and communities. The Mahajan of the place was usually headed by an accepted leader known as the *nagarsheth*. Whenever any public grievance was to be ventilated, the Mahajan was convened at the residence of the *nagarsheth* before it met the ruler for redress. The ruler who was generally mindful of the welfare of his subjects was always anxious to respect public sentiment and if any hasty step was taken by the ruler, it was readily retraced and if any calamity befell the people it was faced in collaboration and co-operation with the people. The Mahajan thus played a very important role in the public life of the time and operated as a wholesome check on some of the government activities which were not in public interest.

The Attachment Scheme

At the time when India won political Independence, the peninsula of Kathiawar now known as Saurashtra presented a bewildering conglomeration of as many as 222 States big and small each of them claiming special status, power and Independence. There were 14 salute States, 17 non-salute States and 191 other smaller States or Estates exercising different degrees of jurisdiction. Bhavnagar district as at present constituted is formed by the inclusion of salute States like Bhavnagar, Palitana and Jafrabad (Janjira State) as well as non-salute and smaller ones exercising semi-jurisdictional powers, some of which were very tiny principalities, barely over half a mile in area. The economic resources of such smaller States were not sufficient to meet the cost of an independent administrative unit; nor did they have capable

administrative machinery for the purpose. The Government of India, therefore, formulated in 1943 a scheme known as the Attachment Scheme, whereunder certain smaller semi-jurisdictional States were tagged on to the adjoining bigger States for administrative purposes. In pursuance of this policy Chok-Datha, Songadh and Paliyad taluka of the old Paliyad thana were attached to Bhavnagar State under Agency Notification No. 105 dated the 20th June, 1943. By another notification No. 192 dated the 30th November, 1943, H. E. the Crown Representative directed the attachment of the States of Vala, Lathi and Jasdan to the State of Bhavnagar. This attachment was made with a view to pursue a uniform policy in the administration of certain common subjects, such as revenue, police, public health, education, etc., which could not be effectively carried out by smaller States with their limited resources. A Special Officer with necessary staff was appointed by the Bhavnagar Darbar to ensure proper and efficient administration of the attached areas.

The Attachment Scheme was not popular with some of the smaller States affected by it, as they saw in this measure a dimunition of their existing authority and power. The opposition they offered in the early stages gradually disappeared. The only unit that resisted to the last was the State of Lathi. The Crown Representative had, therefore, to intervene and take a very strong line of action to make the ruler of that State see to reason and accept what was in the larger interest of the people. An officer of the Bhavnagar State was appointed Dewan under the advice of the Political Agent to work the Attachment Scheme. But this arrangement did not last long and came to an end with the Independence of the country and withdrawal of British paramountcy which made some of the princes think that they were sovereign rulers in their own rights. They did not, however, take long to be disillusioned, when the scheme of integration of princely areas was implemented by that astute politician and statesman Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of modern India.

CONSULTATIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES

With the advent of modern democratic ideas and the political agitation that was gradually gaining ground in the neighbouring British districts, the princely areas of Saurashtra could not remain wholly unaffected, though it was the policy of the government and the Congress not to interfere for the time being in the administration of Indian States. The responsiveness of the ruler to the public wishes also led to the adoption of measures aiming at associating public opinion in the affairs of the State. Advisory Councils with nominated members in the initial stages later amplified by the adoption of elective principle were formed in Bhavnagar, Palitana, Vallabhipur and Lathi. It was Bhavnagar, however, which took the lead in introducing a number of political reforms. A number of factors contributed to the pursuit of such a progressive policy. While the public itself was enlightened and

had their own forum of popular agitation, viz., the Bhavnagar Praja Parishad, the rulers themselves were responsive to popular opinion and ready to march with the times. The existence of such fortuitous circumstances led to the establishment as early as 1919 of the Praja Pratinidhi Sabha, which met once a year and was constituted by nominated members numbering 38 drawn from such interest as *bhayats*, Mulgirasias, municipalities and business and cultivating classes. The members had a right to ask 3 questions each and also discuss such subjects as development of agriculture, commerce, industry, promotion of public welfare and implementation of Darbar's orders in public interest. A significant advance was, however, made in the year 1940, when His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji announced his decision to create a Dharasabha or Legislative Assembly in his State. It was given effect to by a Proclamation dated 1st December, 1941. The Dharasabha was a body of 33 elected members, 16 nominated members and 6 *ex-officio* members. Besides providing for an elected member on the State Executive, the Act promulgated in this behalf gave varied powers to introduce bills, move resolutions and interpellations except on a few specified subjects. This body played a very important part in making public opinion keenly felt in the conduct of State affairs.

Details of the constitution of the Praja Pratinidhi Sabha or the People's Representative Assembly and Dharasabha or the Bhavnagar Legislative Assembly are given at the end as Annexures I and II.

The institution of Dharasabha gave the people of Bhavnagar State a very good training in the democratic form of government which late His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji was the first among Kathiawar princes as well as among many a larger and progressive States of India to introduce at atime when any association of the Indian States in a popular form of government was generally at a discount. Bhavnagar ruler was again the first amongst the States who took the initiative immediately after the Independence of the country to bestow full responsible government on his people in consultation with Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel and paved the way for the merger of States and formation of the United State of Saurashtra.

ANNEXURE I

Praja Pratinidhi Sabha in Bhavnagar State

The former State of Bhavnagar was a very progressive and enlightened State. His Highness Bhavsinhji, on the occasion of his 44th birthday, took a notable step towards liberalisation of the administration by announcing the formation of a Praja Pratinidhi Sabha or People's Representative Assembly for the State in 1917. Pursuant to this declaration the constitution, powers and functions of this Sabha were laid down under Huzur Office Order Number 8, dated 28th April, 1918 and published in the State Gazette. The aims and objects for the establishment of this Sabha were as follows;

(a) to further strengthen the ties of affinity between the ruler and the ruled.

(b) to remove misunderstandings.

(c) to enable the administration to familiarise itself with the desires, etc., of the public and get an opportunity of seeking advice from mature citizens.

The Sabha consisted of 38 members nominated by the Darbar :

(a) Bhayats, Mulgirasias, Jivaidars, Barkhalidars, etc. ..		5
(b) Bhavnagar Municipality members	2	11
Mahal Municipalities each	1	
(c) Business		
(1) Bhavnagar	4	10
(2) Mahuva	2	
(3) Kundla	1	
(4) Botad	1	
(5) Sihor	1	
(6) Talaja	1	
(d) Landholders		
(1) Mahuva	2	12
(2) Kundla	2	
(3) Rest one each	1	
Total		38

The Assembly was to meet on 1st October of every year under the presidentship of His Highness or the Dewan of the State. The (1) Judicial Assistant, (2) Vasulat Adhikari, (Revenue Commissioner) and (3) Hisabi Upari (Accounts Officer) were Vice-Presidents of this Assembly. (1) No Government servant could be an ordinary member of the Sabha, (2) Nominations were to be made by June every three years and (3) The period of nomination was for 3 years.

The members could discuss and ask questions but they had no power to initiate bills or make resolutions. Questions on such important items as development of agriculture, commerce and industry, implementation of Government orders in public interest, public property, etc., could be asked by any member. But questions on items such as the State budget, ruling family, British Government, relation between the Native States, Mul-girasias, military, etc., could not be asked by the members.

No member was permitted to ask more than 3 questions. The questions were to be in the form of request to elicit information. After the session of the Assembly was declared open by His Highness, the Dewan was to present a report about the administration, whereafter questions were asked.

The Praja Pratinidhi Sabha passed through the following phases :

(a) the first phase, which ended with the demise of Shri Bhavsinhji on July 17, 1919.

(b) the second phase marked by the Council of Administration during the minority of His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji.

(c) the last phase when the minority administration was terminated and His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji resumed full powers in 1931.

The Praja Pratinidhi Sabha despite its shortcomings and nominated character proved to be a very useful popular institution for the people of Bhavnagar State which was a pioneer in such matters among the princely States in Kathiawar. Viewed in the context of political conditions prevalent at that time, the Sabha was the first institution of its kind which laid firm and solid foundation for the constitutional reforms by associating popular opinion with matters administrative. Even the limited scope of inter-pretations made a good beginning in training the people in the art of self-government as the members had ample scope for free discussion and eliciting information on the working of State departments. This initial measure paved the way for further reforms later when the legislative body called Dharasabha was introduced in the year 1941. Thus, one progressive step led to another till it culminated into full responsible government for the people of Bhavnagar, who were the first to enjoy this privilege immediately after the Independence of the country in 1947.

ANNEXURE II

The Bhavnagar Dharasabha

His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji, the ruler of the former Bhavnagar State, was a man of progressive ideas. With a view to liberalise the administration further he made a very important announcement on 8th June, 1940 about the creation of Dharasabha or Legislative Assembly in his State. A Proclamation giving effect to this announcement was issued by His Highness in the Darbar held on the New Year's day on 21st October, 1941, whereunder the State Dharasabha was established and its first meeting convened on the 1st December, 1941. The Proclamation added that the 33 elected members as well as those appointed *ex-officio* will be nominated as it was inadvisable to hold elections when the emergency created by the Second World War lasted. It was further announced that a resume of the administration of the State would be given to the members and the provisions of the Bhavnagar Dharasabha Act explained in the first meeting of the Dharasabha. His Highness concluded by expressing a desire to have the advice and assistance of the Dharasabha in the conduct of the affairs of the State especially in matters arising out of the War emergency.

In pursuance of the announcement of October, 1941, the Bhavnagar Dharasabha Act was enacted on 26th December, 1941.

The following are some of the salient features of the Act :—

I. Subject to the provisions of the Act and such rules of business and directions as may be framed from time to time in that behalf, the Maharaja shall appoint an elected member of the Dharasabha as a member of the Darbar's executive; provided that until the system of election of the members of the Dharasabha is introduced and brought into force, such member shall be appointed from among the non-official members of the Dharasabha.

II. The Dharasabha shall be composed of 33 elected members, 16 nominated members and 6 *ex-officio* members. The elected members shall be elected by their respective constituencies. But pending the introduction of the electoral system, the Dharasabha convened under the Proclamation, dated 21st October, 1941 shall be the Dharasabha.

III. The Darbar may for the purpose of any Bill nominate not more than two members having special knowledge and experience of the subject-matter of the bill, but such members will, however, have no right of vote.

IV. The Dharasabha shall continue for a period of three years from the date of its first meeting. It should meet at least twice a year, at an interval of not more than six months from the last sitting of one session and the date appointed for its sitting in the next session.

V. The Dewan shall be the *ex-officio* President of the Dharasabha. There shall be a panel of three Deputy Presidents from among the members of the Dharasabha, who shall be nominated by the Maharaja.

VI. There shall not be introduced into or moved in the Dharasabha any bill or amendment or motion or resolution or interpellation relating to :

(a) The ruling family,
(b) Treaties, etc.,
(c) Relations with the Crown, British India and other States,
(d) Darbar's military forces,
(e) Transactions regulating the borrowing of money or financial obligations of State,
(f) Trust funds or reserve funds managed or created by the State,
(g) Any such matter as may be referred to by the Maharaja.

VII. Subject to the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder any member of the Dharasabha may introduce bills, ask questions, move resolutions and introduce motions of adjournment for discussion on a matter of urgent public importance.

VIII. The State budget is open to discussion, but such of the estimates of expenditure as relate to expenditure charged on the revenues of the State are not votable.

The Dharasabha was inaugurated by Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji on 1st December, 1941, when its first session commenced with an impressive and solemn ceremony marking an important constitutional advance in the administration of the State.

After the presentation of the members of the Dharasabha, the Maharaja addressed the Sabha in Gujarati. After this inaugural speech, the Maharaja left the Assembly Hall and the Dewan took the chair as President of the Sabha. After the members were sworn in, he made a brief statement in Gujarati, to which the *nagarsheth* Shri Vrajlal Bhagwandas on behalf of the members made a suitable reply. The Dharasabha then continued the business of the day.

The Dharasabha continued to play an important role in the conduct of affairs of the Bhavnagar State till its closure on the merger of the State in the

United State of Saurashtra in 1948. This was in many ways a real Assembly. It was an elected body, unlike the previous Praja Pratinidhi Sabha which was nominated. There was no communal representation. The members had a right to introduce bill, move resolutions, discuss the budget, ask questions and supplementaries. Under the rules framed for the purpose, elections were broad-based. The Dharasabha met regularly and functioned well under the benign care of the ruler. It worked more or less on party principles. The members had complete freedom of expression and the discussions and the work of the Sabha were on the whole of a fairly high order.

The institution of Dharasabha gave the people of Bhavnagar State a very good training in the parliamentary form of government, which Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji was the first among the Kathiawar Princes as well as among many a larger and progressive States of India to introduce at a time when any association of the people of Indian States in a popular form of government was generally at a discount. His Highness was again the first among the States who took the initiative immediately after the Independence of the country to bestow full responsible government on the people in consultation with Mahatma Gandhi, and pave the way for similar action and merger by other States who followed his noble and patriotic example.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Population

Growth of Population

The population of Bhavnagar district was 1,119,435 persons, 577,729 males and 541,706 females, according to the 1961 Census. It has recorded a rise of 115·28 per cent during the last sixty years having risen from 519,982 in 1901. Throughout this period there was a steady increase in population except between 1911-21, when there was a slight decrease due to the plague and influenza epidemics of 1918-19 which wrought great havoc and had the most serious effect on population since the famine of 1899. The growth of population is particularly remarkable between 1951-61 (26·40 per cent) which may be attributed to the decline in death rate together with an overall improvement in medical and public health services available to the people after Independence. The decennial growth of population between 1901 and 1961 for the district is given in the following statement.

STATEMENT III·1

Variation in Population during 1901-1961

Year			Population	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation
1			2	3	4
1901	..	..	519,982	..	..
1911	..	..	560,700	+40,718	+7·83
1921	..	..	550,328	—10,372	—1·85
1931	..	..	628,063	+77,735	+14·13
1941	..	..	764,235	+136,172	+21·68
1951	..	..	885,594	+121,359	+15·88
1961	..	..	1,119,435	+233,841	+26·40
1901 to 1961	..	..	..	+599,453	+115·28

Source :

District Census Handbook **1961,** Bhavnagar, p. 14

According to the State Survey Department the area of the district in 1961 was 3,575·4 sq. miles or 5·03 per cent of the total area of the State. The density of population thus comes to 313 persons per sq. mile (urban 7,246; rural 217) as against 290 for the State. The urban density is naturally

higher than the rural where the pressure of population appears to be comparatively less and the average density is worked out on the basis of the entire area within the revenue limits of the village and not of the village site. Among talukas, the highest density was reported in Bhavnagar (648) and the lowest in Vallabhipur (181). The high density figure in Bhavnagar taluka is due to the inclusion of the city of Bhavnagar with a population of 176,473 persons.

The Statement III·2 at the end of the Chapter gives taluka-wise details about rural/urban population (sex-wise), density of population per sq. mile and the number of villages and towns in each of the talukas of Bhavnagar district.

STATEMENT III·3

Urban and Rural Population of the District from 1901 to 1961

Census year	Urban population			Rural population		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1901	139,722	71,844	67,878	380,260	195,207	185,053
1911	137,972	71,112	66,860	422,728	216,912	205,816
1921	137,132	69,953	67,179	413,196	213,211	199,985
1931	161,486	83,410	78,076	466,577	238,911	227,666
1941	206,817	107,015	99,802	557,418	285,451	271,967
1951	283,696	144,203	139,493	601,898	308,473	293,425
1961	352,429	182,701	169,728	767,006	395,028	371,978

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part II-A, *General Population Tables*

RURAL / URBAN DISTRIBUTION

The population figures for the last sixty years indicate a comparatively greater increase in urban population as compared to the rural. As the statement given above indicates, while the rural population doubled during the period, the urban population increased more than 2½ times.

RURAL POPULATION

The total number of villages in the district was 894 in 1961 of which 13 were uninhabited. The total rural population of the district was 767,006 giving an average of 871 persons per inhabited village. The proportion of rural population to the total population in the district (68·52 per cent) was lower than the similar proportion for the State which was 74·23 per cent.

STATEMENT III·4

Percentage Distribution of Rural Population by Size Group of Villages, 1961

Size group	No. of villages	Percentage to total No. of villages	Rural population	Percentage to total rural population
1	2	3	4	5
Less than 200	62	7·04	7,248	0·95
200—499	254	28·83	92,615	12·07
500—999	311	35·30	224,831	29·31
1,000—1,999	186	21·11	254,652	33·20
2,000—4,999	67	7·61	182,384	23·78
5,000—9,999	1	0·11	5,276	0·69
10,000 and above	—	—	—	—

Source :

District Census Handbook, 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 14

Out of 881 villages inhabited in the district, 316 or 35·87 per cent fall in the class range less than 500; 497 or 56·41 per cent in the class range 500 to 1,999 and 68 or 7·72 per cent are large size villages (2,000 and above) covering 24·47 per cent of rural population. It is significant to note that more than half of rural population–57·67 per cent–is concentrated in villages having population 1,000 and above, that is to say in medium and large size villages.

URBAN POPULATION

A statement showing the number of towns classified by population is furnished below.

STATEMENT III·5

Number of Towns Classified by Size Groups, 1901 to 1961

Year	I 100,000 and above		II 50,000 to 99,999		III 20,000 to 49,999		IV 10,000 to 19,999		V 5,000 to 9,999		VI Below 5,000	
	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1961 —	1	176,473	—	—	4	114,532	1	15,263	6	41,906	1	4,255
1951 ..	1	137,951	..	—	3	73,228	2	33,127	5	30,856	2	8,534
1941 —	1	102,851	—	—	1	22,058	4	62,413	1	6,785	3	12,710
1931 —	—	—	1	75,594	—	—	4	55,326	3	19,178	3	11,388
1921 —	—	—	1	59,392	—	—	2	29,122	4	29,927	5	18,691
1911 —	—	—	1	60,694	—	—	2	30,508	5	32,779	4	13,991
1901 —	—	—	1	56,442	—	—	3	40,450	3	20,357	5	22,473

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 15

Of the total population of the district, 31.48 per cent live in urban areas, as against 25.77 per cent in the State. The urban population of the district numbering 352,429 persons is spread over 13 towns of different sizes of which only one, viz., Bhavnagar comes under Class I and has population over 100,000. Of the rest, 4 are in Class III, i.e., size group 20,000 to 49,999, one falls under Class IV and has population above 10,000 and below 20,000 and 7 have population below 10,000. The average population of a town in Bhavnagar district is 27,110 persons as compared to 30,380 for the State though the proportion of urban population of the district is higher than that in the State.

Population of Towns

	Persons	Males	Females
Bhavnagar	176,473	92,085	84,388
Mahuva	32,732	17,042	15,690
Savarkundla	31,051	16,034	15,017
Botad	26,168	13,595	12,573
Palitana	24,581	12,783	11,798
Sihor	15,263	7,770	7,493
Gadhada	9,123	4,713	4,410
Gariadhar	8,202	4,187	4,015
Talaja	7,067	3,613	3,454
Vallabhipur	6,908	3,589	3,319
Gogha	5,472	2,503	2,969
Paliyad	5,134	2,616	2,518
Umrala	4,255	2,171	2,084
Total Urban Population	**352,429**	**182,701**	**169,728**

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

DISPLACED PERSONS

As a result of the partition of the country in 1947 some Muslim families from this district migrated to Pakistan, but a proportionately larger number of persons who came from Pakistan were settled in the city of Bhavnagar. The total number of such migrants in the district according to the 1961 Census was 4,205 (2,039 males; 2,166 females) of whom 4,148 have settled in urban areas and 57 only in rural areas. As many as 3,154 of them have settled in the city of Bhavnagar. The government extended various facilities to rehabilitate them by giving them financial and other concessions which included technical and vocational training, special priority for recruitment in public services and loans to settle in petty business or trade.

SEX-RATIO

In 1961 the number of females per 1,000 males was 938, a little lower than the State ratio of 940. It was also revealed that the proportion of females was comparatively less in towns (929) than in villages (942). The urban areas with a sex-ratio lower than the district average comprised Bhavnagar, Vallabhipur, Botad, Palitana, and Mahuva. This was due to the commercial, industrial and educational development of these places which led to the concentration of male population in these areas. On the

other hand, Gogha is the only place which recorded more females (1,186 per 1,000 males) than males, mainly due to the absence of its male members who go out to sea as sailors and return at long intervals.

Birthplace and Migration

According to 1961 Census 263,540 persons, i.e., 23·54 per cent of the population were born elsewhere in the district of enumeration, 5.80 per cent outside the district but in the State and 1.42 per cent outside the State. There has been a general tendency among the village people to go to nearby towns to earn their livelihood. The city of Bhavnagar naturally attracts greater number of people (56,832) from outside, as it is one of the important industrial and commercial centres of Gujarat. Most of them (33,788) come from other parts of the district and settle in Bhavnagar for bettering their economic condition. Sex-wise distribution of migrants shows that 12.39 per cent of the male population and 35.44 per cent of the female population were born elsewhere but within the district and 3.77 per cent of the male and 7.96 per cent of the female population were born outside the district. The high percentage of female migrants is due to birth and marriage migrations resulting from a girl leaving her parent house after marriage. The persons who migrated from Pakistan numbered 6,489.

Marital Status

The 1961 Census recorded 462,028 persons in the district as married; of these, 228,535 were males and 233,493 were females. Persons who were not married accounted for 585,255 of the total population, males being 57.41 pe cent and females 46.81 per cent of their respective population. The widowed were 6.26 per cent and divorced or separated 0.18 per cent only.

The following statement gives distribution of 1,000 males and females by age and marital status.

STATEMENT III.6

Distribution of 1,000 Males and Females by Age and Marital Status, 1961

Age-group	Total		Never married		Married		Widowed, divorced, separated	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total	**1,000**	**1,000**	**574**	**468**	**396**	**431**	**30**	**101**
0—9	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0
10—14	1,000	1,000	984	951	16	49	N	N
15—19	1,000	1,000	820	395	178	600	2	5
20—24	1,000	1,000	380	53	610	935	10	12
25—29	1,000	1,000	128	11	856	963	16	26
30+	1,000	1,000	31	5	874	683	95	312

N = Negligible

Source ;

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

The Census revealed that child marriages had very nearly disappeared in the district inasmuch as only 1.58 per cent males and 4.90 per cent females in the age-group 10-14 years were returned as married. Among males, the age at marriage has shifted and risen to 20 and above as only 17.85 per cent of males in the age-group 15-19 were returned as married while the percentage increased to 60.97 in the age-group 20-24 and to 85.57 in the age-group 25-29. In case of females, the marriageable age had risen well over 15, which is obviously lower than in the case of males as disclosed by the fact that in 1961, 59.97 per cent of females in the age-group 15-19 and 93.52 per cent in the age-group 20-24 were married. While 31.23 per cent of females of more than 30 years were returned as widowed, divorced or separated, the similar percentage for males in the same age-group was only 9.44 per cent. This shows the general absence of remarriage among women.

RELIGION

The district has a predominant Hindu population. The 1961 Census shows that as many as 1,007,991 or 90.05 per cent of the total population of the district were Hindu. Muslims numbered 73,679 (6.58 per cent), Jains 36,204 (3.23 per cent), Christians 1,148; Sikhs 199 and Buddhists 5. Those following other religions and persuasions numbered 209 or 0.02 per cent. There is no person professing tribal or animistic faith. The following is the rural-urban distribution of population under various religions, by sex.

Distribution of Pop 'lation by Religion

	Rural/ Urban	Males	Females
Hindus	R	377,661	355,034
	U	143,531	131,765
Muslims	R	12,198	11,658
	U	25,283	24,540
Jains	R	5,006	5,142
	U	13,270	12,786
Christians	R	131	117
	U	413	487
Sikhs	R	30	24
	U	98	47
Buddhists	R	..	..
	U	3	2
Other Religions	R	2	3
	U	103	101

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 142

Hindus

Hindus are subdivided into a number of castes and sub-castes details about which are not available in the recent censuses as classification by

caste has been dispensed with. However, such details are available from the 1931 Census for the Bhavnagar State which returned the following major castes and sub-castes among the Hindus, viz., Kanbi, Koli, Bania, Brahmin, Rajput, Kumbhar, Bharvad, Ahir, Bawa, Darji, Hajam, Luhar, Mochi, Kathi, Sutar, Vaghri, Kharak, Rabari, Dhed, Bhangi, Luhana, Soni, Chamar.

Muslims

Muslims are likewise subdivided into a number of castes such as Sipai, Khoja, Memon, Ghanchi, Vahora, Sindhi, Fakir, Pathan, Arab, Khatki, Saiyed, Sheik, Pinjara.

MOTHER TONGUE

1,102,611 persons were speaking Gujarati as their mother tongue in 1961. Speakers of other main languages included Sindhi (8,986), Urdu (2,088), Hindi (1,586), Marathi (1,339), Marwari (870). Kachchhi (389), Malayalam (266), Tamil (233) and Punjabi (225). Gujarati thus claimed 98.50 per cent of the district population. The numbers of speakers of other languages are insignificant more so in rural areas where their strength is merely 0.19 per cent.

LITERACY

The 1961 Census shows that there are 307,042 literates in the district aged 5 years and over which form 32.98 per cent of the total population of that age. This aggregate literacy is distributed between two sexes as 221,457 males and 85,585 females who respectively form 45.97 per cent and 19.05 per cent of the population of either sex. Out of the total literates, 148,552 or 48.38 per cent live in villages while 158,490 or 51.62 per cent in towns. Among literates living in the countryside 118,840 or 80 per cent are males and 29,712 or 20 per cent are females. Corresponding proportions among town dwellers are 102,617 or 64.75 per cent for males and 55,873 or 35.25 per cent for females. The general literacy has increased from 21.44 per cent in 1951 to 32.98 in 1961 in this district.

LANGUAGE AND SCRIPT

As stated earlier, 98.50 per cent of the district population had Gujarati as their mother tongue according to the 1961 Census. The Gujarati script used by the people is very much akin to Devnagari with this difference that unlike Devnagari it is written without the line overhead.

Gujarati is one of the major languages of the Indo-Aryan family, and is derived, like other languages of the group, from Sanskrit. Its history dates back to about one thousand years. The great scholar, Acharya Hemchandra (1087-1174 A.D.) who was a distinguished member of the court of the

Chalukya Kings, Siddharaj and Kumarpal of Patan, has in his 'Prakrit Grammer' given numerous quotations from contemporary literature which can easily be regarded as specimens of the oldest Gujarati literature.[1]

The progress of Gujarati language since the time of Acharya Hemchandra, to the present day can be divided into three stages. The first from the tenth or eleventh century to the fourteenth, the second from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century and the third thereafter to the present times. The language of the first period can be called *Apabhramsa* or 'ancient Gujarati' and that of the second period which is generally known as 'old Gujarati', should be called 'mediaeval Gujarati.' The language of the third period can no doubt be called 'modern Gujarati'.[2]

The Gujarati vocabulary consists mostly of Sanskrit *tatsama* and *tadbhava* words, but it has also accepted words not only from Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Portuguese, English and other foreign languages but also occasionally from the Dravidian languages of South India. There are in the Gujarati language, hundreds of archaic words of unknown origin called *deshya* which suggest contacts with diverse cultures of many races. But all these contacts reflected in the vocabulary have had no appreciable effect on the formation of the Gujarati language, which has acquired its structure from Sanskrit through Prakrit and *Apabhramsa*. In the course of historical development, its structure had already taken a definite shape and form before the commencement of the modern period.[3]

Gujarati language has several dialects or *boli* which are only the spoken variants of speech. These include *Charotari*, *Surati*, *Kathiawadi*, etc. A slight local variation in speech and accent is, however, found in different parts of the district or in different communities which retain a peculiarity of their own, as described by a well-known proverb "બાર ગાઉએ બોલી બદલાય" meaning thereby that speech changes every twelve *gau* (24 miles). Besides Gujarati, the other important languages spoken by the people in this district include Sindhi, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu and Marwari.

SCHEDULED CASTES

The total population of Scheduled Castes as per 1961 Census is 50,534 persons—25,342 males and 25,192 females, and forms 4.51 per cent of the total population of the district. The rural, urban distribution accounts for 36,047 persons (71.33 per cent) in villages as against 14,487 (28.67 per cent) in towns. Details by caste are given below.

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1. DR. SANDESARA B. J., Article on *Origin and Evolution of Language* published in *the Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress*, held at Bhavnagar in 1961, p. 191

2. Presidential address by SHRI KESHAVLAL DHRUVA in the Second Session of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, held at Bombay in 1907.

3. DR. SANDESARA B. J., *op. cit.*

STATEMENT III.7

Population by Caste, Rural and Urban, 1961

Name of Scheduled Caste	Total	Males	Females	Percentage to total population of the district		Percentage of each Scheduled Caste population	
				R	U	R	U
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total	50,534	25,342	25,192	3.22	1.29	71.33	28.67
Bawa (Dhedh) or Dhed-Sadhu	480	268	212	0.04	..	87.71	12.29
Bhangi or Rukhi ..	9,832	4,865	4,967	0.54	0.34	61.39	38.61
Chamar, Nalia or Rohit ..	12,000	5,966	6,034	0.86	0.21	80.38	19.62
Chamadia	48	20	28	N	..	100.00	..
Dangashia	31	14	17	N	..	100.00	..
Garmatang	116	64	52	0.01	..	100.00	..
Garoda	675	322	353	0.04	0.02	65.63	34.37
Hadi	3	2	1	N	..	100.00	..
Meghwal	4,721	2,364	2,357	0.37	0.05	87.25	12.75
Senva	1	1	..	N	N	..	100.00
Turi	27	12	15	N	N	51.85	48.15
Turi-Barot or Dhed-Barot	170	84	86	0.02	..	99.41	0.59
Vankar, Dhedh or Antyaj	19,751	10,017	9,734	1.14	0.63	64.65	35.35
Unclassified ..	2,679	1,343	1,336	0.20	0.04	83.31	16.69

N=Negligible

Source:

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 21

The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are Vankar including Dhedh or Antyaj and Chamar including Nalia or Rohit having 31,751 persons or 62.83 per cent of the Scheduled Caste people and 2.84 per cent of total population of the district.

Scheduled Tribes

Siddis, the only Scheduled Tribe in this district number 75 or 0.006 per-cent of the total population of the district or 0.003 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes of the State. Their population comprises 42 males and 33 females. Capable of hardwork they were employed as servants in Royal Court of former Muslim States. Because of their contact with ruling families and the Court nobility they have imbibed civilised mode of living and culture. Of their total population of 75, 4 persons live in villages and 71 in towns. This shows their preference for urban areas where they have increased opportunities for employment and earning livelihood.

Other Backward Classes

There are other backward classes besides Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Those which are important in the district are Kolis (Chumvalia) and Vaghris.

Harijan Uplift

Harijans or Scheduled Castes were the worst sufferers in the former social structure because of the evil of untouchability all over the country. The practice of untouchability was attended with all the disabilities of social and economic inequalities from which the Harijans suffered. This state of affairs began to change with the impact of Gandhiji's preachings. The State of Bhavnagar had always shown a sympathetic attitude for the Harijans but in the absence of any punitive law, the position in general of the untouchables was far from satisfactory. Even the constitutional safeguards since Independence did not change their lot overnight. The condition of Harijans has, however, improved considerably both economically and socially in recent times as a result of certain legislative measures taken by the government to ameliorate their condition and intensive work done by social workers.

The Bombay Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Act of 1946 gave every Harijan a right of access to public water places, burial or cremation ground, public place of entertainment, a shopping centre or "any place set apart or maintained for the use of Hindus generally". Under the Bombay Harijan Temple Entry Act, 1947, every temple was made open "to Harijans for worship in the same manner and to the same extent as to any member of the Hindu community". Any person who on the ground of untouchability prevented a Harijan from exercising any of the rights conferred by these two enactments was liable to punishment with imprisonment or fine under the Untouchability (Offences) Act of 1955, passed by the Union Parliament. The Bombay Hindu Places of Public Worship (Entry Authorisation) Act of 1956 entitled a Harijan to have free access to all public places of Hindu worship and any denial to him of free access was made penal. In addition to these legislative measures which are in force in Gujarat, government has undertaken various other activities designed to bring home to the general public the evils of untouchability. These measures consist of the celebration of Harijan week, award of prizes to villages doing outstanding work in the removal of untouchability, grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies engaged in the work of removing untouchability, etc. Concerted efforts are made to throw public places like temples, wells, hotels, *dharmashalas*, etc., open to the Harijans and to ensure their continued access to these places.

Inspite of all these measures, total eradication of untouchability is still a distant goal and it will take long and strenuous efforts before the untouchables take their rightful place in society. In a number of villages in the district as elsewhere in the State, Harijans still have separate drinking waterwells, separate temples and separate areas of residence. But the general attitude towards them has certainly changed for the better more so in towns than in villages. They are treated on par with other members of society

in public functions or places of entertainment. Their children are now admitted without discrimination in schools and colleges and even the highest position in the State and public bodies are open to them. They are being gradually accepted in society on the basis of equality and the former handicaps from which they suffered are slowly but surely disappearing. Much progress has been made in the matter of temple entry, while in the public they move and mix freely with other members of society. Their housing condition has appreciably improved as a result of various schemes sponsored by the government and local self-governing bodies. Their settlements which were usually located on the periphery of a village or town are being gradually shifted to better sites and the existing ones are improved by provision of facilities of street lighting and drinking water of which they were so far deprived.

Social Customs

A—Hindu

The major part of Hindu customs consists of ritualistic practices related to various religious ceremonies known as *samskaras* (sacraments). There is a great divergence of views among *smriti* writers regarding the number of *samskaras*. They are classified as : (i) *nitya* (usual) and (ii) *naimittika* (occasional or incidental); the former number sixteen and must be performed, but the observance of the latter is optional. Brahmins and communities which claim Kshatriya or Vaishya origin perform most of the sixteen sacraments; four of them, namely, *simanta* (pregnancy), *upanayana* (thread-girding), *vivaha* (marriage) and *svargarohana* (death or heaven-climbing) are observed with some care by all Hindus, irrespective of community.

Pregnancy

Generallly, two ceremonies are performed at the husband's house to celebrate the woman's first pregnancy. The first which takes place at the beginning of the fifth month is known as *panchamasi* and the second which is held in the seventh month is called *simanta*. The *panchamasi* ceremony which corresponds to the Vedic *samskara* of *vishubali* is popularly known as *rakhadi* (guarding) and *simanta* which corresponds to the Vedic *samskara* of *simantonayana* is popularly known as *agharani* or *kholobharvo* (lap-filling). These ceremonies are not as elaborately observed these days as they were done in the past. Not infrequently both the above ceremonies are combined and performed during the seventh month.

Childbirth

The expectant mother generally goes to her parent's house for her first confinement. In olden times, when education had not spread much and modern medical facilities were not easily available, confinement used to take place in rooms which were not airy and ventilated and without the

assistance of trained nurses. Usually an untrained but experienced midwife available in the locality was called. Even now, in villages and backward areas and among uneducated people the same practice still continues to exist. But in cities and in educated families, increasing use is being made of maternity hospitals and assistance is taken from qualified nurses and doctors. On the birth of a child the family astrologer or some relation is asked to note the time. After the child is born, the midwife cuts its navel cord and buries it in a corner of the compound in the front of the house. On the sixth day the *chhatthi pujan* (sixth day worship) is performed. It is beliveved that on that night Goddess of Destiny writes on the child's brow its future.

Naming the Child

Generally on the twelfth, but sometimes on some other suitable day, the child's naming ceremony takes place. The husband's female relations go to the house of the mother's parents and present the child with ornaments and clothes. The father's sister lays the newly born babe on a white sheet of cloth with seven *pipal* (*ficus religiosa*) leaves and seven betel nuts. The four ends of the cloth are raised by four children and the babe is rocked four times. At the end of the swinging and rocking, the father's sister names the child.

On some auspicious day within three months of the birth the mother returns to her husband's house, when clothes, ornaments and a cradle are presented to the grandchild and the daughter.

Upanayana Samskara

The *upanayana* or *janoi* (sacred theread ceremony) as it is called in Gujarati is a Vedic *samskara* involving various acts one of which is investing the *batuk* (boy) with a *yajnopavita* or *janoi* (sacred thread). Hindus claiming a place in the first three *varnas* (classes), i.e., the *dwijas* (twice born) consider *upanayana* as an essential *samskara* (purificatory rite) which formally initiates one to *brahmacharyashrama*. It is during this period that the stage of student hood commences and is concluded with the rite of *samavartana*, which befits one to marry or enter *grahasthashrama*, the householder's stage. Besides Brahmins, Lohanas, Bhatias and Rajput also consider themselves by tradition entitled to undergo the rites of *upanayana samskara*.

Prior to the ceremony of *upanayana* proper, a number of propitiation rites are enjoined to be performed. The boy is bathed and dressed in rich clothes and ornaments. He requests the priest to make him a *brahmachari* (a vedic student). The boy is then dressed by the priest as a *brahmachari* or celibate and holds a *khakhara* (*butea frondosa*) staff and a piece of deer skin in his hand. The preceptor then says to the boy : "You have now become a *brahmachari*; you must observe religious exactness; you must sip a mouthful of water before taking food; you must not sleep during the

day; you must control your speech; you must keep alight the sacred fire and cleanse your mouth after taking food." The *mahanamya* (great name-telling), the thirteenth of the Vedic *samskara* is then performed. The boy sitting to the north of the fire bows to the preceptor and begs him to be initiated into the mysteries of the sacred verse *gayatri*. The boy, the preceptor and the father are then covered with a shawl or *dhoti* and the preceptor whispers thrice the sacred verse (*gayatri*) into the boy's right ear, first syllable by syllable, next phrase by phrase and then the whole verse. The boy is then taken to the house of the preceptor—an event which symbolises his leaving the parental house for studies. The next day he is brought back in a procession as if after completing his studies. But the boy does not return home and runs away a little distance after which his maternal uncle catches hold of him and persuades him to come home, where his mother waves a water pot round the boy's head and makes him bow low before the family goddess, the family priest, and the elders.

Marriage

For the Hindus, marriage is a *samskara*, a sacrament, calling for the performance of elaborate rites and ceremonies prescribed in the *gruhya sutras*, before entering *grahasthashrama* or the householder's stage. Some of the important restrictions on marriage have come into existence through the practice of endogamy and exogamy.

Endogamy

Endogamy which means marriage within the same caste or sub-caste is the general rule. Any marriage outside is considered contrary to the caste custom. These restrictions are gradually loosening and marriages outside the caste and sub-caste are on the increase particularly among the advanced and educated classes.

Exogamy

The *shastras* ordain that a person should not marry in his own *gotra* or *pravara*, and within six degrees of relationship on the father's side and four or five on the mother's side. Only Brahmins, as they know their *gotras*, can abide by the rule of *gotra* exogamy. The rule forbidding marriage within the same *pravara* is not observed even by the Brahmins. Only the *gotra* of the father and not of the mother is considered when a marrlage alliance is contemplated. This restriction has been showing signs of relaxation in recent times.

Dowry System

The dowry system which prevailed among some of the castes had caused acute hardship to the poor. In response to a strong agitation against the continuance of such a harmful custom, an Act abolishing the giving or taking

of dowry at the time of marriage was passed by the Parliament in 1960. Any contravention of this law was made penal.

Betrothal

Betrothal is generally arranged by the parents or elders of the boy and the girl. But among the educated classes, the youths are now allowed to meet and convey their assent before the match is struck. In some cases they are even permitted to cultivate some acquaintance prior to marriage. Negotiations generally commence with the girl's party, though in some cases the boy's father or his relation takes the initiative. Betrothals are always verbal and never written. They are binding on both the parties and rarely set aside. In certain castes it involves payment of a fine laid down by the caste *panch*. To complete the contract of betrothal, the girl's father gives rupee coins (1, 11, 21 or 51 in number), a coconut, betel-nuts, etc., to the boy. Among some communities he makes a symbolic payment of one rupee or more on the betrothal day to the caste fund. The boy's father then sends to the bride a ceremonial present of a *sari*, ornaments and sweets and also invites her to meals at his house.

Marriage Ceremonies

A few days previous to the marriage invitations written or printed, are despatched to friends and relatives. Two or three days before the day of wedding the *mandap muhurata* (erection of the marriage booth) and the worship of Ganapati and *Gotraj* (family deity) take place at both the houses.

On the day of marriage or on the day previous, bride's maternal uncle and his wife bring presents (*mosalu*) for the bride and her parents. Presents to the bride consists of her wedding dress and ornaments especially *chudo* made of ivory to be worn at the time of the wedding. Similarly the bridegroom also receives presents from his maternal uncle.

The Jan

If the bride belongs to another place, the *jan* or the bridal party starts in procession with drumers and pipers in front followed by male relations and the bridegroom and the women singing in the rear. The further journey to the bride's village or town is completed by any convenient mode of transport and on their arrival at the village the parents and the male relations of the bride go to receive them. The party is then carried in procession to the place known as *utara*, specially reserved for their stay. Before the wedding procession starts, women of the bride's party go to the *utara* with *kalvo* consisting of sweets.

The wedding procession is usually a very grand affair. The bridegroom who is called *var raja* receives all the attention as if he were a king for the time being. He rides a horse richly caparisoned or sits in a carriage or motor car. The procession moves through the principal bazaars before it

reaches the bride's house. When the procession reaches the bride's place, bride's mother waves a miniature plough, a grinding pestle and a churning stick, four times over the head of the bridegroom and places at the bridegroom's feet a *samput* made of two earthen cups or *kodia* painted white and tied together with a red string so that their edges touch each other. The bridegroom treads on the *samput* and breaks it to pieces and entering the booth takes his seat in the *mayaru*, specially decorated for the occasion.

The marriage rites and ceremonies to be performed at the *vivaha* or wedding are generally the same among all Hindus, though they may vary in some minor details according to caste and region. The rites commonly in vogue are in order *kanyadana*, *vivaha homa*, *panigrahana*, *lajjahoma* and *saptapadi*. These are interspread by a number of minor ceremonies such as feet washing, honey sipping, rice throwing, moment naming, present making, oath taking, etc.

Brahmins and Nagars perform the *charubhaksana* or *charubhaksa* ceremony (eating of cooked rice). The couple sit in the booth called *chori* and the priest lighting the sacred fire perform a sacrifice. The couple then feed each other with *kansai*. The bridegroom's people are then presented with cash and cloth by the bride's father. These presents are given even among castes which do not perform *charubhaksana*. The communities which practised dowry had to pay to the bridegroom a very heavy price by way of *pehramani* (dowry). In former times when child-marriage was prevalent, the bride did not accompany the bridegroom on his return home. This is not the case now except perhaps in case of *Shrimali Brahmins* who never bring the bride along with the *jan*. Some near relatives of the bridegroom stay behind to bring her later on any convenient day. The bridal couple is received ceremonially at the house steps. They then together offer worship to the *matrkas, gotraj, rannadev* or any other nuptial deities that were installed in the household at the commencement of the marriage festivity Ladies sing special songs at the time. The bride and bridegroom then untie the *mindhal* from each other's wrist, feed each other with *kansar* and play with *kodis* (shell money). With a *vadhamana* or thanks giving at the temple of the village deity. the marriage ceremony comes to a close.

In most of the communities, the bride returns to her father's house for the *ana* ceremony after staying a fortnight at the husband's. When she comes back to her husband's house after some days, her father gives her clothes, ornaments, sweets and number of articles of household utility. The time between each succeeding *anu* goes on increasing and the final *anu* known as *jianu* takes place when the daughter returns from her father's after her first delivery.

Marriage and Morals

The social outlook of the people on marriage has considerably changed in recent times with the spread of education assisted by social legislation

and economic stress. A number of undesirable social practices which were strictly observed in the past are freely departed from under the changed circumstances and in the atmosphere of freedom and independence which have set people thinking on fresh lines. The practice of child marriages which was commonly prevalent in former times has well nigh disappeared and the age of marriage has substantially advanced both in case of males and females. In the case of males the age has gone beyond 20 and in the case of females beyond 15. Child marriage has been declared unlawful and made punishable with imprisonment or fine or both under the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, XLI of 1949. Most of the restrictions which were accepted as a matter of course and scrupulously observed in the past are being modified and relaxed to suit the modern trends of thought and ways of living. Civil marriages which were unknown in the past are nowadays on the increase. Such marriages are, however, resorted to only when marriage under the personal law becomes difficult or impossible. Inter-caste marriages have also started taking place, especially in towns, between those of the younger generation who have received modern education. Bigamy is prohibited by law and made penal. Widowhood is still considered a mark of social superiority and universally practised by the advanced classes. Though divorce is now permitted under the law and freely practised by some of the lower castes which permit them by tradition and custom, its extent is comparatively much less and resorted to only under special circumstances. Even in cases where divorce is obtained by having recourse to a Court of law, as provided under the Hindu Marriage Act, the divorcee who remarries is generally the male member and not the female who prefers to remain single. Remarriages are, however, common among the lower castes where the custom known as *natra* is prevalent. Widow remarriage in the form of *diyarvatu*, that is to say levirate is permitted and practised among some of the lower castes, among whom a widow of an elder brother marries the younger brother of the deceased husband irrespective of the difference in their ages.

The following statement gives details about never married, married, widowed and divorced persons in the district according to 1961 Census.

STATEMENT III·8

Marital Status

	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total Population ..	**577,729**	**541,706**	**395,028**	**371,978**	**182,701**	**169,728**
Never Married ..	331,705	253,550	221,591	172,837	110,114	80,713
Married ..	228,535	233,493	160,592	163,640	67,943	69,853
Widowed ..	16,418	53,686	12,053	34,934	4,365	18,752
Divorced or separated	1,066	972	787	562	279	410
Status unspecified ..	5	5	5	5	...	...

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 132

Death

On the near approach of death, the dying person is laid on his back with his feet to the south on the portion of the floor which has been smeared with fresh cow-dung. Close by is set a lighted lamp fed with *ghee*. A brahmin priest or a relative reads the *Bhagvad Gita*. Wnen life is gone, the body is covered with a sheet. The body is bathed and clothed in a waist cloth if a man and in a *sari* if a woman, then laid on a bier made of bamboo poles. The bier is raised on the shoulders of four of the nearest relations and taken to the cremation ground.

Relatives of the deceased get their head and moustache shaved on the tenth day after death, but the impurity which attaches to the members of the same branch extends till the twelfth.

Memorial rites or *shradha* are performed from the tenth and continued till the thirteenth day after death. On the twelfth day is performed what is called *sapindikarana* whereby the dead severs all earthly connections and joins the *pitrukas* (manes). On the thirteenth day of the *shradha*, various utility articles in use by the departed soul are gifted to the family priest, so that the deceased may enjoy them in another world. During the first year, *masio* (monthly), *chhamasi* (half-yearly) and *varsi* (yearly) *shradhas* are also performed.

Element Worship

It is the religious belief of the Hindus that the universe is formed of *panchmahabhutani* or five element, viz., *prithvi* (earth), *ap* (water), *tejas* (light), *vayu* (wind) and *akash* (ether). All objects animate or inanimate, are believed to be composed of one or more of these elements, and when an object is destroyed each of its component parts return to its own element. All these elements are deified and worshipped as Gods by almost all classes of Hindus in the district.

B—MUSLIM

The chief rites and ceremonies which a Muslim observes relate to pregnancy, birth, naming a child, initiation, betrothal, marriage and death. They are described below as followed by Muslims in general and Sunnis in particular.

The first pregnancy is the *satamasa* or the *navamasa* performed in the seventh or ninth month. The ceremony takes place at the husband's house, whereafter the expectant mother goes to her father's. On the seventh, fourteenth or twenty-first day after child birth comes the purely Muslim rite of *akika* sacrifice which has two parts, namely, the shaving of child's head and the killing of one or two goats. The ceremony of *botan* (feeding) is performed when the child is four and a half months old.

Bismillah ceremony which consists of taking the name of God, is performed when a child completes four years, four months and four days. The child is made to repeat, after the priest, the opening chapter of the *Quran* and the relatives are feasted to commemorate the occasion. The *khatna* (circumcision) takes place when the boy is six or seven years old. There is rejoicing and a dinner in honour of a boy or girl keeping his or her first *Ramzan* fast.

Betrothal

Representatives of a boy's family pay a visit to the house of the bride and have a look at her. If they think well of the girl they accept the glass of *sharbat* (sugared water) offered to them, and drop some sugarcandy in her mouth to indicate that they ask the girl in marriage. The day of betrothal is then fixed when there is a meeting of the kith and kin at the boy's and girl's houses. In the evening women of the boy's family accompanied by the children of their relations and friends go to the girl's house with ornaments and sweetmeats in covered trays. There they adorn the bride with ornaments, put a ring on her finger and cover her with a *dupatta* (scarf). After drinking *sharbat* and coffee and receiving flowers and rose water they return, taking with them trays filled with fresh presents, a handkerchief, a ring, a *mandil* (jari turban) and sweetmeats.

Marriage

On the day of marriage, the bridegroom's relatives go to the bride's house in a procession called *bari* or *sachak* carrying in trays gifts of sweetmeats, dried fruits, ornaments and articles of dress for the bride. The party comes back with their trays refilled with clothes for the bridegroom. Some time during the early hours of night the groom dresses himself in wedding clothes and with a *sehra* (flower-sheet) fastened round his forehead rides on a horse, and starts in a procession accompanied by friends and relatives with a musical band in front. At the bride's house the bridegroom is led to his seat. Then the *kazi* asks the bride's agent whether she accepts so and so as her husband in consideration of *meher* (dower) as decided. If she assents he takes the declaration of two other witnesses. He then puts the same question to the bridegroom. The proceedings are recorded by the *kazi* who offers his blessings to the married couple. The *nikah* or wedding ceremony is followed by an entertainment programme after which the bridegroom returns home with the bride.

Marriage between cousins, both parallel and cross, is not prohibited among Muslims, that with the first cousin being preferred. However, sister's daughter is under incest taboo and one cannot marry his foster-mother or foster-sister unless the foster-brother and sister were nursed by the same woman at intervals widely separated. Polygamy is restricted to four wives, but is not very common these days. A man may not marry his wife's

sister during his wife's lifetime unless she has been divorced. *Talaq* (divorce) is at the option of the husband, but among higher classes is resorted to only as the last resort. Widow remarriage is practised, but avoided by many as a mark of social superiority. A widow can marry her deceased husband's brother or relative and a widower his deceased wife's sister or relative.

Talaq (divorce) recognised by Muhammadan Law is of various kinds, of which the three forms considered legal are : (1) *talaq-i-ahasan*, the most rebuttable kind of divorce in which the husband pronounces 'I have divorced you', this is reversible; (2) *talaq-i-rajab*, in which the declaration of the husband to that effect is twice repeated, also reversible ; (3) *talaq-i-hasan*, in which the husband pronounces three different sentences of divorcement in as many months; this is irreversible and the wife cannot be taken back until she has been married and divorced by another man.

Death

To one on the point of death, the *sura-e-yasin* from the *Quran* is read in a low voice; the creed and prayer for forgivensess are recited so that the dying person may also repeat it, and a few drops of honey or sugared water are put into the mouth. When life is extinct, the body is laid on a wooden platform and washed and perfumed. A *kafan* (shroud) consisting of three white pieces of cloth to which two more pieces, namely, *sima band* and *odhani* are added in the case of a female, is put on the dead body. Then the bier is lifted on the shoulders of relatives and other Muslims and borne away to the graveyard where the last prayers are offered. Till the third day no food is cooked in the house of mourning; friends or relatives of the deceased send cooked meals or cook them at their expense at the house of mourning.

The only form of mourning laid down by Muhammadan Law is, in the case of the death of the head of a family, the strict seclusion of his widow. Unless forced to do so, she never leaves the house for four months and ten days. Besides this strictly Muhammadan observance, some of the customs prevalent among Hindus are also practised. The widow breaks her bangles and never again wears them; neither does she put on a nose ring. If young, she wears some dark coloured dress; if old a white one.

Religion

Hinduism

Hinduism as it is practised by the people is a great synthesis of various shades of thoughts in which the Vedic worship of the great forces of nature the *Puranic avatara*, the philosophical doctrine of *karma*, and the pre-Aryan, reverence of trees, stones, animals and totems are inextricably intermingled.

Though the influence of caste is tending to diminish appreciably with the spread of modern education, the religious life of the orthodox Hindus is mainly governed by the tradition of the caste to which one belongs. Brahmins,

except a few who belong to the Swaminarayan sect, are followers of Shiva and almost all have household gods whose worship some members of the family must perform everyday. The family gods are some or all of the Hindu *panchayatan* or the group of five, composed of a stone *ling* for Mahadev, a stone *shalingram* or a picture of *Shri Nathji* for Vishnu, a picture or metal image of *Shakti, Bhavani* or *Mata* typifying divine energy, Ganapati, and *Surya* or the Sun and Hanuman, the Monkey God. Brahmins are expected to perform *sandhya* (twilight prayer) at least once a day in the morning, and repeat *Gayatri* or sun-hymn. Banias are *Vaishnavas*, staunch adherents of Vallabhacharya who propounded the worship of Krishna by intense devotion or *bhakti*. Instead of the sacred thread, both men and women wear round their neck a *kanthi* of small basil or *tulsi* beads. The Rajputs, though partial to the worship of Shiva, are equally devoted to *Shakti* the mother Goddess. The agricultural and artisan castes are all god-fearing people who worship some or the other deity of the Hindu pantheon. Belief in demons, sorcerers, witches, the evil eye and bad omens is found more or less in almost all the people.

Shaivism

The main doctrine of Shaivism is the existence of one universal soul without a second or *advaita* and of the individual soul or *jeevatma*. All nature is but a manifestation of the universal soul, takes its origin from that soul and is eventually absorbed therein. Adherents of Shaivism worship the deity under the name of Rudra, Shiva, Sadashiva, Shankara, Shambhu, Mahadeva, Neelkantha, etc., in their own houses, as also in the temples which are to be found in almost every village, town or city in this district. Shiva worship has continued from the earliest times to be the cult of the Brahmins, though this deity is the equal favourite of all other castes except the Vaishnavas and the Jains. Rudra is a terrible god in the earlier *Rigveda* hymns, but in the *Yajurveda* he is several times mentioned by the name of Shiva and Shankara and also Mahadeva. Rudra or Shiva though fierce is besought in the Vedas not only to preserve man from calamity but also to bestow his blessings on man and beast. This may account for the euphemistic epithets of Shiva the auspicious, Shankara the doer of good, Shambhu the origin of good, and Mahadeva the greatest of gods. Of the *puranas*, four, viz., *Skanda, Shiva, Linga*, and *Bhavisya*, specially favour the cult of Shiva. Towards the close of the eighth century, Shiva worship was extended and popularised by Shankaracharya. He established in India four *maths* or monasteries where he established his four principal disciples as *acharyas* who are in their turn succeeded by their pupils to this day. Shivas in this region generally come under the jurisdiction of *Sharda pith* (seat of learning) situated in Dwarka, The chief duty of the *Shankaracharya* (pontiff) is to preach and disseminate the doctrine of the Vedic religion. Shaivas use a traverse streak on their forehead as religious mark and use *rudraksha* rosary.

Vaishnavism

Vishnu, Sun God in the *Rigveda*, becomes the God of preservation and universal prosperity in the post-vedic period. The various incarnations or *avataras* of Vishnu literally mean his descent to earth for the good of gods and men. Of these Rama the seventh incarnation and Krishna the eighth are the most popular. Among Rama worshippers the chief are Ramanujis, Ramanandis and Ramasnehis and Vallabhacharis, Madhavacharis and Swaminarayans among Krishna worshippers. *Vaishnavism* prevalent in this part of the country is the *pushti marg* or creed of spiritual nourishment founded by Vishnu Swami and propagated by Vallabhacharya. The philosophic doctrine it propounds is termed *shuddhadvaita* as distinguished from the *kevaladvaita* of Shankaracharya and *vishistadvaita* of Ramanuj. It teaches that God, though eternal, is endued with celestial form and all visible phenomena emanate from him. Building on this philosophical basis, Vallabhacharya introduced elements of pleasure and enjoyment, in divine worship, rejecting the austerity and hardship of the other sects.

Swaminarayan Sect [1]

Vaishnavite Sect called the Swaminarayan was founded during the early decades of the nineteenth century by Sahajanand, well-known as Swami Narayan who tried to deliver Vaishnavism of those days from some of its corrupting influences. The sect which is named after its founder possesses a large following all over Gujarat drawn from all classes of people irrespective of their original creed. Gadhada in Bhavnagar district is one of the important centres where the founder spent most of his time and propagated his religious teachings.

The Founder—The great Hindu reformer, Sahajanand Swami, was born at Chhapaia, near Ayodhya in 1781 A. D. From infancy he showed a sort of aversion to leading a wordly life and evinced great regard for the study of the *shastras*. On the death of his parents, when he was aged eleven, he renounced the world and left his house in the garb of an ascetic. For nearly eight years he practised severe penance and visited various centres of pilgrimage in India. At this time he was known as Nilkantha Brahmachari. In 1800 A.D. he travelled over to Loj in Saurashtra, in search of a suitable *guru*, where he met Swami Ramanand who initiated him in his quest of the Supreme Being. By the force of his exemplary character and attainments, and life of intense asceticism he endeared himself to his spiritual guide who appointed him *acharya* or head of his followers before his death in 1801. Nilkantha Brahmachari was then renamed Sahajanand Swami. Popularly known as Swami Narayan, he made Gujarat and Kathiawar the field of his religious reforms which he carried out with great vigour and energy. Though the religious doctrines preached by him were in no way distinct from those preached by the *Vaishnavite* Hinduism his criticism of the immoral

1. TRIVEDI R. K., *Bhavnagar State Census* 1931, Part I, *Report*, pp. 252-256

practices of the day, and advocacy of a life of purity and piety evoked much opposition. But Sahajanand carried out his holy mission with unique success, which greatly increased the numerical strength of his proselytes. He advised the worship of and faith in one God who was Krishna who alone could deliver the soul from the fetters of the body. The real value of his work as a reformer lies in his throwing open the portals of his discipleship to all strata of society irrespective of their caste or creed. Hindus and Muhammadans, higher and lower castes, worshipped God under the spiritual guidance of Swami Narayan. The civilizing influence of the sect in reclaiming to the path of virtue, honesty and truth those turbulent castes like the Kolis, Kathis and Bhils and subduing their spirit of outlawry and bringing them back to society as loyal citizens of the state was profound.

Realising the necessity of creating suitable centres from where the preaching could be conveniently carried out, three great shrines of beautiful architecture were built on sites that were extremely well-chosen at Ahmedabad, Vadtal in Kaira district and Gadhada in Bhavnagar district.

Swami Narayan recognised the stages of spiritual development by creating different orders, viz., (i) for the ecclesiastics and (ii) for the laity. He also created a class of nuns who are styled *sankhyayoginis* or female devotees.

Doctrine and Philosophy of the Sect—The first and foremost amongst the works of the sect is the *Shikshapatri* or Code of Moral Instructions containing two hundred and twelve verses written in Sanskrit for the various classes of devotees. It aims not only at the moral and spiritual reformation of the adherents, but also gives practical advice for the conduct of the individual in his daily life.

On the philosophic side Swaminarayan sect has adopted the *Vishistadvaita* or qualified *advaita* doctrine of Ramanujacharya and on the ritualistic side it has taken a leaf from the *pushtimarg* of Vallabhacharya in the form of the worship of Shri Krishna. The *vachanamruta* giving the encyclical communications of Sahajanand Swami to his disciples is an excellent work in simple Gujarati embodying the sayings of the saint who himself had experienced the spiritual knowledge which alone enables a man to understand the Supreme Being, Lord Krishna. He struck at the very root of impure associations by ordering separate temples and congregation of females, and thus administered a wholesome check to those immoral practices which he had seen in other sister sects which allowed free association of the sexes. He died in the year 1829 at the age of 48.

Jainism

Jainism preaches *tapa* or austerity, control of the mind and passions, *ahimsa* and renunciation of all worldly pleasures and attachments to attain *moksha* or liberation. Jains worship the images of all the 24 *tirthankars* in

their temples wherein are also found images of Hindu gods and goddesses in some side niches.

Shwetambar and Digambar—The two major divisions of the Jains are Shwetambar and Digambar. Shwetambar monks put on white clothes and Digambar monks having directions as their clothes wear no clothes. The major point of difference between the two is whether the injunction to renounce all wordly possessions for achieving salvation should be carried to the extreme by dispensing even with clothes and practising nudity. The principal places of Jain pilgrimage in this district are Mount Shatrunjaya near Palitana associated with the first *tirthankar* Rishabhdev, Kadambgiri and the well-known shrines at Talaja.

Islam

The chief articles of Islamic faith are belief in the unity of God; in His angels; in His books, in His prophets; in His government of the world, in good and evil as coming from Him; and in the day of resurrection. Muslims in the district constitute a little over six per cent of the total population according to the Census of 1961. Among the two leading sects of Islam found in the district, Sunni and Shiah, the former are more common than the latter. The group of Shiahs known as Ismailis whose Imam or religious head is His Highness the Aga Khan is also found among the Khoja community in the district.

The main point of difference between the two great divisions is that Sunnis consider Abubakar, Umar and Usman as well as Ali the lawful successors of the Prophet, while Shiahs espouse the cause of Ali, the fourth Khalifa only and contend that the first three Khalifas before Ali were usurpers who had defrauded Ali of his right to the Khilafat. In consequence, Shiahs exclude from the *Quran* certain passages alleged to have been written by Usman and add a chapter in praise of Ali. Further, they follow the precepts of Bara Imam or twelve Imams instead of the four Imams and claim that their *mujtahids* (religious superiors) in Persia have power to alter the spiritual and temporal law. In practice, some sects of Shiah differ from Sunnis, chiefly because they count the month from the fading of the old moon and not as Sunnis do from the shining of the new moon. They pray thrice instead of five times a day, and in praying hold their hands open by their sides instead of folding them below the breast. Except these and few other particulars, the beliefs and customs of the rival sects are the same.

INTER-CASTE RELATIONS

Inter-caste relations were very rigid as in other parts of the country a generation ago. The members of different castes and sub-castes lived in close water-tight compartments in such matters as inter-dining and inter-caste marriages. The picture has greatly changed especially after Independence and the changes that have occurred in recent times are noteworthy.

Caste barriers in matters of food have almost broken. Inter-dining is no longer looked upon with disapproval by Hindus anywhere in the district particularly in towns, though this restriction still persists in a diluted form in a number of castes and communities in rural areas. Inter-caste marriages, though not very common, are more frequent than ever before and many of the traditional restrictions on marriage based on caste are gradually melting away as a result of the spread of education, influence of western culture, equality of sexes and consequent removal of disabilities from which they suffered in the past.

Property and Inheritance

As regards inheritance and succession Hindus are governed by Hindu Law and the Muslims by Muhammadan Law. The system of Hindu Law which is followed in Gujarat is *mitakshara* in general and *vyavhar mayukha* in particular. The main principle of inheritance is that the property of a Hindu is never held in abeyance, but devolves on the sons on the death of the father. Under the coparcenary law in force in Gujarat, the son acquires a right in the ancestral property as soon as he is conceived. But the self-acquired property can be disposed of by a person as he wills, as the son does not get any inherent right in such property. The disabilities in respect of inheritance and succession from which women suffered in the past have been removed by the legislature by enacting special laws like Hindu Women's Right to Property Act (XVIII of 1937), the Hindu Marriage Act, 1936 and the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 which have introduced fundamental changes in the status of women in line with the directive principles of the Constitution.

The Hindu Marriage Act enforces monogamy and renders bigamy penal. The Hindu Succession Act while breaking violently with the past lays down uniform system of inheritance and provides for equal treatment of male and female. Another distinguishing feature of these enactments is that any property held by a female Hindu is her absolute property over which she has full powers of disposal. The former restraints and limitations have been removed by making her a full owner and not a limited heir as in the past. Male and female heirs are treated equal without any distinction. When a Hindu male dies intestate his property devolves in equal shares between his son, daughter, widow and mother. The rights of women have thus been fully recognised at law by ensuring equality of rights in all fields of human activity social, economic and political, first by granting adult suffrage and later by passing social enactments guaranteeing equality of status before the law.

Joint Family

The Hindu family is from ancient times joint in food, worship and estate. It consists of the head of the family, his wife, their sons—married and unmarried, unmarried daughters, grand children living and working together. It was the responsibility of the head of the family to marry the younger members at the proper time, offer oblations to the dead, and propitiate titulary deities.

The joint income of the family was spent after all the members according to individual need. The widowed, the orphaned, the aged and the disabled were duly looked after. With the passage of time the bonds of joint family system have begun to loosen and the besire for personal liberty has necessiated a change in the concept of the family as an economic unit. The need of getting higher and specialised education has separated the younger members from their family for studying at high schools and colleges which are located in towns and cities. Many of them have settled there and established separate households as villages offer no prospects of their employment in profitable pursuits. With the spread of industrialization village people have moved to large industrial and urban centres to earn a comfortable living. A large number of joint families have thus begun to disintegrate and the old social order characterised by the joint family system has been undermined under the stress of modern economic conditions and ways of life. The individualistic tendencies are gaining ground day by day, and the former ties which bound the family together are gradually loosening. Younger members of the family prefer to live separate rather than continue joint and are naturally anxious about their own needs and comforts in preference to those of other members of the family. Despite these changes, the joint family system still survives though in a diluted form without the former adhesion brought about by the spirit of sacrifice and regard for common welfare.

Place of Women in Society

For Gujarati women seclusion or *pardah* or *ghunghat* came into vogue from the time of the Muhammadan invasions as a measure of safety and protection. The practice continued thereafter particularly among Rajput chiefs and Zamindars as a mark of social prestige. In former times the women confined themselves to the four walls of their home. The confinement was stricter in villages than in towns. The seclusion of women was greater among Muslims than among Hindus.

Desire for a rise in the level of living and soaring prices have created their own problems. For the most part, it is men, who are economically active, though in rural areas among the cultivating classes women did give a helping hand to their male partners in rearing cattle, looking after crops and participating in a variety of ways in agricultural operations. It was only in towns that women were completely dependent and did not take part in any economic activity. Economic stress and worries of modern life have made it difficult for the people in urban areas to make both ends meet, if a certain standard of living is to be maintained. Educated women are coming out in increasing numbers to shoulder the responsibility of running the household by engaging themselves in gainful pursuits. Women of the labouring classes have always taken an active part along with males by getting themselves employed in mills and factories and other occupations involving manual labour. The participation of women in economic activity which was totally absent among the middle and higher classes in the past is increasing day by

day to meet the economic challenge of modern times. This tendency is gaining greater greund since Independence because of the equality of opportunity as guaranteed to both the sexes under the Constitution of the country.

HOUSING

According to 1961 Census the total number of houses in Bhavnagar district was 290,174, of which 201,216 or 69.34 per cent were used as dwellings or shop and workshop-*cum*-dwellings, 30,145 or 10.39 per cent were vacant and the rest 61,282 or 20.27 per cent were used for non-residential purposes. Of the total, 193,753 or 66.77 per cent of the houses were in rural areas and 96,421 or 33.23 per cent in urban areas. The number of vacant houses in rural and urban areas was 18,668 (9.79 per cent) and 11,477 (11.45 per cent) respectively. The incidence of vacant houses is thus found to be higher in the urban areas than in the rural. Taking the district as a whole, on an average out of every thousand census houses, 104 were vacant as against 896 which were occupied. The district average was exceeded by the talukas of Bhavnager, Mahuva, Sihor and Kundla where the proportion of vacant houses was 119, 110, 107 and 106 respectively. In all other talukas the proportion was less than the district average. The smallest number of vacant houses was recorded in Vallabhipur, where the proportion fell to 81 only. Houses remain vacant for a variety of reasons, the principal amongst them being the desire of the house-owners not to give them on hire. A number of persons from this district go outside the district or even outside the State and the country for better prospects. They would, however, prefer to keep their houses vacant during their absence so that when they come back they can live there during such brief vacations. In many of the villages persons who have settled elsewhere for economic reasons, pay periodical visits to their native village on social occasions. Such houses also remain vacant for a major part of the year.

The number of households reported by the 1961 Census comes to 196,606 (131,221 rural and 65,383 urban) as compared to the number of dwelling houses which was 201,216 (125,010 rural and 66,206 urban). The number of houses is thus found to exceed that of the households both in urban and in rural areas of the district. 72.81 per cent of the district households lived in owned houses and the rest lived in rented premises. As is to be exepected the proportion of owned houses was comparatively less in towns than in villages. While in urban areas 41.19 per cent of the households lived in their own houses (the remaining 58.81 lived in rented houses) in rural areas the percentage was as high as 88.43. The highest proportion of owned houses was recorded in Gariadhar mahal (774 out of 1,000), while the highest proportion of rented houses was recorded in Bhavnagar taluka (717 out of 1,000) establishing the fact that the proportion of owned houses was higher in those talukas which were relatively less urbanised while that of rented houses was higher in those which were more urbanised.

Housing facilities in the district were found to be inadequate. 20 per cent sample housing census conducted during 1961 disclosed that as many as 66·60 per cent of the total sample households in the district lived in single room houses, 24·41 per cent in houses with two rooms and less than nine per cent in houses with more than two rooms. The extent of over crowding can be measured from the fact that the number of persons who shared single room houses came to 5·09 on an average.

Wall and Roof Material

An analysis of houses by material of wall and roof shows that most of the houses in villages had mud walls or stone walls plastered with clay and cow-dung emulsion, though grass, leaves or reeds were in frequent use in the construction of hutments of those who were financially backward. Burnt bricks or stones were used by the higher and materially well-off classes. The roofs were mostly covered with *deshi* or country tiles though the preference for *vilayati* or Mangalore tiles brought by sea is now-a-days apparent in many villages, particularly in the coastal areas. The flooring in a majority of village houses was of beaten earth covered with cow-dung emulsion which is believed to possess certain antiseptic properties, stone and cement tiles being in demand in houses of the well-to-do.

According to the Housing Census, 67.8 per cent of the dwelling houses in rural areas had mud walls, 18.9 of the houses had stone walls, 5.4 per cent had walls built with unburnt bricks and 6.5 per cent with burnt bricks. As regards roofing material 97.2 per cent of the dwellings had tiled roofs and 1.8 per cent had roofs of grass leaves, reeds and bamboos and the rest had stone slabs or iron or cement sheets.

The houses in urban areas differed greatly from those of rural areas in respect of wall and roof materials. 60.1 per cent of the urban houses had walls built with burnt bricks as against 6.5 per cent in rural areas. Only 1.6 per cent had unburnt bricks. Stone walls were found in 21.9 per cent of the houses while 13.5 per cent of the houses had *kuchha* mud walls. In respect of Bhavnagar city 89.9 per cent of the dwellings were built with burnt bricks, 4.4 per cent with stone and only 3.3 per cent with mud. The use of tiles as roofing material was found to be comparatively much less in urban areas than in villages. 74.1 per cent of the dwellings in urban areas as against 97.2 in rural areas had tiled roofs, 17.7 per cent of the dwellings had concrete or stone slabs, 4.4 per cent had corrugated iron or cement sheets and only 3.8 per cent had reeds, grass leaves and bamboos as roof materials. The use of reeds, grass leaves or bamboos as wall and roofing materials was generally confined to the slum areas.

Statement III·9 Census houses and the uses to which they are put, Statement III·10 Distribution of sample households living in Census Houses used wholly or partly as dwelling by predominant material of wall and

predominant material of roof (based on 20 per cent sample), Statement III·11 Sample households classified by number of members and by number of rooms occupied (based on 20 per cent sample) extracted from the housing tables published in Census of India 1961 Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables* are reproduced at the end of this Chapter

SETTLEMENT PATTERN

Bhavnagar City[1]

As Bhavnagar is the only city in the district it would be interesting to study its settlement pattern at some length. The original area of the city was surrounded by a fortwall which no longer exists. It presents the usual picture of narrow streets, lanes and by-lanes subdivided into localities distinguished by the well-marked distribution of castes and religion. The more advanced communities occupy the central area close to the *darbargadh*, followed by the residential quarters of the artisan and service classes; the less advantageous communities like Harijans, Vaghris, Bharvads, etc., are relegated to the area on the fringe of the town. One main thoroughfare passing from Gogha gate to Khar gate and extending into the port area forms the principal shopping area with various bazaar streets branching off at different points. The modern commercial institutions like banking, insurance companies, trading firms, etc., are located in the heart of the town in the principal business areas. Institutions for higher education as well as the industrial area are located in the extended areas though some of them still exist in the congested locality of the original town.

Originally founded on the site of village Vadwa, which forms one of its congested wards and locality, the city first expanded its limits into Karchaliapara and Navapara on its outskirts beyond the overcrowded and congested localities of Vadwa, Bhaga Talav, Pirchhalla and Darbargadh which formed the original habitat. When the suburbs got fill in, further development took place towards the east in the Takhteshwar Plot area where the richer section of the population constructed residential-*cum*-bungalow type dwellings in modern style. After sometime even this extension proved to be inadequate as the city was continuously growing. The introduction of town planning scheme by the Bhavnagar State in 1935 gave birth to the well-planned residential area known as Krishnanagar. These areas grew up rapidly as a result of availability of land at cheap rate and liberal loans for the construction of houses at reasonable rates of interest and easy terms for repayment. These newly constructed houses are designed to suit the needs of single households and provide all types of facilities with separate latrines, bath-rooms, bed rooms, kitchen, etc. At the same they are attractive, beautiful and colourful in elevation. One of their distinguishing features lies in roofs which take the form of terraces built of lime, concrete or stone slabs.

1. TRIVEDI R. K., Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, *General Report*, Part I-A (i), pp. 889-891

Towns and Villages

The general lay out of large size villages and towns in this district appears to be essentially the same, particularly with regard to the functional distribution of castes and workers. As in the case of villages, towns, some of which have developed from large-sized villages or happen to be the headquarters of a taluka/mahal are either on the bank of some river as in the case of Umrala or Palitana or located on some elevated ground as in the case of Sihor or Talaja, also on river bank. In towns the main roads passing across the main area branch off into sub-roads leading to residential area distributed according to the functional characteristics of castes. Towns and large-size villages which were in the past the principality or seat of some estate holder had their *darbargadh* either in the centre or on one side of the village around which the various castes are distributed in the order aforesaid.

Rural Areas

As regards small villages the old pattern has not changed to any appreciable extent. In general, every village has localities earmarked for different castes. In a good number of villages there is central place known as *chowk* with a public place called *chora* housing the temple of Rama which served as a meeting place for elderly people. Close to the village gate and often outside it is what is commonly known as Harijanvas where the Scheduled Caste people stay in their mud-walled hutments. Next to it are the dwellings of other Backward Classes like Vaghri, etc. The houses of the so called higher classes are generally situated in the centre of the village followed by those of artisan and service classes. The integrated lay out of the houses also varied according to castes. The house of a Girasdar or Zamindar, the village yoeman for example, usually has a huge gateway or *delo* on either side of which is *bethak* or meeting place separated from the main house by an open courtyard. Provision for separate apartments for males and females usually exists in such houses as women of the household do not appear in public. The houses of traders or artisans are usually shop-*cum*-dwellings or workshop-*cum*-dwellings. A Brahmin's house is usually provided with a separate kitchen and water-room with a corner reserved for worshipping the household deity. The houses of the Backward Classes are mostly single room tenements with a verandah in front. With the increasing efforts now made by government to improve living conditions of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes and Castes their newly constructed houses are much better planned and provided with greater comforts. A major part of the houses in villages in this district is found to be one-room tenements with a *parsal* or *osari* in the front. Dwellings with more than one room are mostly found to be occupied by higher and well-to-do classes. Most of the houses have an open courtyard in front or at the back enclosed by a wall where the agriculturists keep their cattle and the village artisans

ply their household industry. Separate rooms for storing, living or sleeping are unknown in such dwellings though separate kitchens are not altogether absent. Ventilation and sanitation facilities are meagre. In the past ventilation was not found indispensable to villagers whose economic activity kept them busy in fields. Nor was its provision possible in their short sized dwellings. To them the prime use of housing was safety and protection of their scanty belongings and cattle against adverse climatic conditions, wild animals and thieves. But the new structures that are now built do possess adequate ventilation facilities. Air and light are appreciated to a far great extent than in the past as evidenced by the opening of more windows or widening of the ventilators in the wall. Mud walls are being replaced by burnt bricks and country tiles by Mangalore tiles. The desire on the part of village people for a better and decent living is evidenced by new structures which are more airy and spacious. The trend thus indicates significant changes in living conditions which are far better than in the past due to the improvement of economic condition in the countryside.

HOUSING PATTERN

Because of the impetus given to urbanization consequent on the growth of industries and to the further acceleration of that process in the post-Independence period as a result of the increased industrial tempo in almost all parts of the country under a planned economy, the pattern of house construction and the nature of facilities available to its occupants are generally undergoing considerable changes. The realisation of the potentialities of cement and steel as basic building materials has been another potent factor in introducing altered designs for buildings. Consequent upon the ever growing pressure of population in urban areas, towns and cities have been constantly expanding. The height of buildings is continuously on the increase. Houses are being more systematically planned and constructed with a view to providing adequate air and light.

FOOD, DRESS AND ORNAMENTS

Food

Hindus in this district, as in other districts of Gujarat are mostly vegetarian. Only Rajputs and some of the so-called lower castes or Scheduled Castes and Tribes take animal food.

Daily Meals—High caste Hindus generally take two meals a day, the first between ten and twelve in the morning and the second between seven and nine in the evening. The Jains because of their religious precepts finish their evening meals before sunset. But those doing physical work including labourers in urban areas and agriculturists, field workers and village artisans in rural areas take three meals a day; the breakfast (*shiraman*) in the morning, the other at noon time and the third (*valu*) at night.

Brahmins are expected to observe great purity while taking food. An orthodox Brahmin would take a bath and dress himself in silk *dhoti*, i.e., *pitamber* while taking his meals. If he is required to use a cotton garment it must be dipped in water, wrung over and dried untouched by any one. Such strict observance, howevei, is now confined only to a few orthodox families. The rest dine in their ordinary clothes.

The food taken by most of the people in rural areas is very simple consisting of two oi three items per meal. While such castes as Brahmins, Banias, etc., usually have *dal* and rice in addition to *rotla* or loaf of *jowar* or *bajri* with *chhas* (butter milk) taken by others in the morning. It is not on all days that they have some vegetable or pulse as an additional item. Most of them do not need it; many of them cannot afford it. *Khichadi* is a popular item of food generally taken with *rotla* in the evening both in rural and urban areas by all classes of people. The morning meal of an ordinary urbanite usually consists of *rotali* or *chapati*, *dal* (split pulse boiled and mixed with spices of various kinds), oi *kadhi* (butter milk boiled with spices added), *bhat* (boiled rice) and *shak* (vegetables) or *kathol* (pulse). The well-to-do classes have such ancilliary items as *kachumbar* (salad), *chutneys*, *murabbas*, various types of pickles and one or more additional vegetables. The evening meals are comparatively simple usually consisting of *bhakhari*, milk and a vegetable. The use of *dal* and *bhat* is generally dispensed with in evening meals, though a few among the well-to-do repeat it also at night. During the last sixty years, the use of tea has been universal among all classes of people. It is generally taken twice a day in the morning and in the afternoon. Coffee is also popular with some.

Dress

Fashions in dress have considerably changed in the course of the last 30 years, partly as a result of the wider spread of western education and partly in consideration of better suitability to altered conditions and ways of life. The more elaborate aspects of the older apparel have practically disappeared, particularly in cities. Their place has been taken by much simplei and lighter clothing. A much greater uniformity is now in evidence in the general style of the clothes worn, irrespective of past traditions and practices peculiar to individual caste or community. Fashions change, but a new fashion is not always a new creation. More often than not, it is a modification, not an entire obliteration of what had previously been in existence. But in case of headwear, the change is complete. The use of the turban (*phento*, *paghadi*, *safo*) is going out of vogue and so is the case even with the cap, atleast in urban areas. Not long ago the turban was the most common headwear among villagers. The way one folded his turban was an indication in many cases of the caste of the wearer. A Rajput or Girasia's turban (*safo*), for instance gave a different appearance because of its broader and up-going folds. Other items of dress worn by a Hindu male included

badan (shirt), *angarkhu* (coat) or *jamo* (long robe or vest), *dupatto* or *khes* (shoulder-cloth) and *dhotiyun* (waist-cloth). A Hindu woman wore *sari* or *sallo*, *choli* or *kanchali*, (blouse or bodice) and *ghagharo* or *chaniyo* (petticoat). Girls when they went out put on a *ghaghari* (short petticoat) and *odhani*, piece of cloth covering the body and the head. Boys wore round caps, and *angarkha* (tunic), a *lengha* (trousers), or a *potadi* (small waist-cloth). Children both boys and girls, wore *jhablas* (frocks) and caps. Both the old and young, male or famale, had an extra pair of expensive clothes to be worn on ceremonial occasions.

Remarkable changes have taken place in the last few years in the dress of the common man, particularly the younger folk in cities and towns. The long-winded *dhoti* is substituted by the *lengha* or *pyjama* made of long cloth of medium thickness. The old *angarkhu* has been discarded for a short or long coat of western type now replaced by *paheran* or *kafani* over which a jacket may be worn in winter. The western type of garments, i. e., coats and trousers is usually worn by a few among the gentry or office going people. The more popular dress among them as also among college students and many others, is, however, a trouser and a bush shirt or a bush coat. Curiously enough, head dress of any kind has gone almost completely out of fashion among the younger people. In fact, it has been a fashion these days for the people to go about bare-headed, though among people who formerly used to wear turban, white Gandhi cap is the general headwear.

Women in cities and towns have given up wearing heavy cotton *saris* or *sallas* which they used to wear in the last generation. They now put on *saris* which are less heavy and finer. Petticoats, often with fringes matching the border of the *sari*, are worn underneath. The old type of bodice has been given up and its place taken by blouse and *polka* of different varieties and shapes copied from cinemas. Girls do not put on *odhanis* as before, but have taken to frocks and skirts. The *chappal* has become a favourite foot-wear for men, women and children particularly in urban areas.

The villages have not yet taken on any large scale to the western type trousers and bush shirts. The cultivator is found wearing the old type of loose and thick trousers (*chorno*) having small folds down the waist. *Kadiyu* or *angarkhu* covers the upper part of the body. He continues to put on the typical head-dress, a thickly folded and often picturesquely coloured *phento* or turban, though *khadi* cap is popular with many. He still wears the old type of heavy shoes made by the village cobbler. Women in villages are still found to a large extent in their old multi-coloured costume, varied by finer mill-made clothes which are becoming increasingly popular even in the countryside.

The transformation that has come about in men's dress is to no small extent due to the acute shortage of cloth during World War II which necessitated all possible economy in the use of cloth by all strata of society, high

or low. Rise in prices further discouraged buying even when stocks were sometimes available in the market. Another important factor of a psychological nature in operation for sometime, not only in this district but throughout the whole country deserves special mention. The upsurge of national awakening since the early years of the century, the Swadeshi Movement and its later intensification during the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1920 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi led to a vigorous rethinking about the suitability of a man's clothing to the climate in which he lived. Loose and light garments were naturally found to be more suitable for a tropical climate of a country like India. Even the more sophisticated classes of society discarded costly mill-made and foreign cloth and readily resorted to simpler clothing made of *khadi*, which had become an emblem of nationalism.

Ornaments

As with dresses so with ornaments. Used mainly for emphasising one's beauty, they generally change from time to time according to the prevailing fashion and from community to community. The change is effected not only in their style or design but also in their size, weight and contents. While the ornaments used in the past were generally heavy and solid those in vogue at present are much lighter, refined and sophisticated in designs. In the past ornaments used to serve the purpose of economie safety and insurance in times of stress and difficulty. Now with the spread of modern banking and other facilities the stress is more on refinement than on solidity. The soaring prices of gold and silver also act as a deterrent against using ornaments of heavy weight.

Ornaments differ also from caste to caste. For example high caste Hindu married women generally wear around their neck *mangal sutra* which is not used by lower classes. The latter do not wear glass or gold bangles, earrings and other refined ornaments. They put on instead thick silver *kadun*, heavy gold ornaments and *chudlo* made from ivory. In the past there were certain ornaments which were commonly uesd by both males and females. These included *vali* in the ear, *kanthi* round the neck, a silver *kandora* round the waist and a ring or more on the fingers. With the passage of time menfolk in general have ceased using all these ornaments except the ring which is the only common ornament for males and females both in rural and urban areas. Some males in rural areas do wear *kanthi*, *vali* or *kandoro*, but womenfolk still use all the traditional ornaments except *kandoro*, which is getting fashionable once again among urban females. Fashions thus change but they do not altogether obliterate. Some of the ornaments get revived in refined forms and designs. This is particularly true in case of female ornaments. For example the use of *nath* in the nose, *zanzar* in the ankles and *vali* on the ears was very popular not many years ago. Every Hindu married woman was expected to put them on. With the passage of time these ornaments went out of fashion and were dispensed

with. They have come into fashion once again even with the urban women-folk who had discarded them as out-of-date.

Female Ornaments

Rural—The common ornaments worn by women in rural areas include: *tholiya*, *kadi* or *butti* on ears, a *nath* or *chuni* in the nose, *dokiyu*, *kanthi*, *ramnomiya*, *magmala* or *madaliyu* round the neck, *kada*, *patla*, *khadak* or *chudi* on the wrists and *kadla*, *sankla*, *zanzar* or *toda* on the ankles. While the wrist ornaments are usually made of ivory and sometimes of gold and silver, those of ankles are made of solid silver. The ear and nose ornaments are mostly of gold. The *kanthi*, *ramnomiya*, and *magmala* are of gold at times intermixed with glass beads. *Madaliyu* or locket is made of silver or gold passed through a black thread and worn round the neck. Bharvad women put on heavy ivory *kadas* covering the entire forearm.

Most of the ornaments in regular use by women in rural areas are either of silver or of ivory though gold ornaments are no less popular. The former are preferred as they have to do physical labour on field and attend to household chores which are havy compared to those in urban areas. Use of gold ornaments for day to day wear is avoided also because their outdoor duties demand care and precautions against possible theft or loss.

Urban—Fashions in women's ornaments in urban areas have been rapidly changing. The general tendency now appears to avoid heavy ornaments in preference to finer and lighter ones and jewellery by those who can afford. The women in urban areas usually adorn their ears with earrings or *butti*, made of gold or pearls or precious stones set in gold. Round their neck they put on a gold necklace or chain with a pendant attached at the middle or a *mangal sutra*, if married. *Nath* in the nose is not in common use now. Bangles of gold and glass are commonly worn on hands. Bangles and *chudas* of ivory and plastic worked in numerous designs and studded with gold and silver are their modern variations. A silver *vedh* or *vinchhiya* which had gone out of use is coming into fashion again. Lockets or *bajubandh* are no longer in vogue now. Gold ring either of simple design or set with precious or imitation and synthetic stones are also popular.

Male Ornaments

Rural—The males (especially agriculturists) put on a *phool* over their ears and a silver ring or two on their fingers. Some elderly persons belonging to the lower castes put on rings on almost every finger of their hands. Those who can afford also wear round the neck a *hansdi* of gold. Bharvads mostly put on *kanthi* or *dokīyun* made of glass beads and gold round their neck and silver *kadas* on their wrists. Many of the agriculturists also use a silver chain with buttons on their upper garments.

Urban—Ring is the most common ornament for urban males. A wrist watch is a recent addition which is highly popular not only in towns but

also in villages. Those who can afford put on jewelled rings. A few orthodox persons put on *kanthi* or gold chain round their neck.

Ornaments for Children

Ornaments for children are light in weight and simple in design. The most common ornament for girls both in rural and urban areas is of course the bangle. The practice of wearing simple earring (either of gold or rolled-gold) and silver *zanzar* on ankles is common. For boys the popular ornament in villages is *madaliyu*. Those in urban area do not generally use any ornament.

It has to be noted, however, that the extent of use of gold or silver in the making and wearing of ornaments is mostly governed by the social and economic status of the household and the class of society to which it belongs. Those who cannot afford to have ornaments of gold or jewellery rest content with simpler and cheaper ornaments made of alloy and inferior metals, set with glass pieces and beads. The use of gold ornaments has been considerably affected since the enforcement of the Gold Control Order which has placed restrictions on making ornaments out of pure gold. A recent trend in the use of ornaments is the revival of some of the traditional silver ornaments, the artistic excellence of which has attracted notice of all lovers of ancient handicrafts.

FURNITURE AND DECORATIONS

Furniture and decorations in a house usually reveal the taste, the status and the economic condition of the householder. To an urbanite furniture is no more a luxury now; it is an essential item for comfortable living. In urban households, various types of furniture are usually seen. A rich family dwelling in a spacious residence with separate bed rooms and drawing rooms usually has a sofa set, a few chairs, teapoys, dining and study tables, bedsteads and other items of furniture made of wood, according to its need and capacity. A radio set, wooden or steel cup-boards and decorative mirrors are other common items of a well-to-do family. An ordinary educated middle class family too will have these pieces, though on a moderate scale. Others would rest content with a chair or two of ordinary type and a simple cot. *Hinchko* or swing seems to be a favourite item of furniture with all classes of people. The one used by poorer classes is cheaper made of a simple wooden plank.

The villagers at large have not yet become furniture minded. An average agriculturist has a few bedsteads as the only item of furniture. The cultivators who are better off go in for better cots, a few chairs, a swing and some modern furniture as well.

Houses of well-to-do families in urban areas are decorated with curtains, pictures and delicate pieces of wood work. The ordinary family does not

have more than a picture or two or a calendar on the house wall for decoration. In orthodox households (both in cities and in villages) the doorways are decorated with *torans* made of glass beads. In villages, castes like Kanbi and Kathi have *chaklas* or square pieces of cloth embroidered in traditional designs of high excellence for wall decoration.

Communal Life

Garba and Ras

Among the various cultural activities and forms of entertainment in vogue in this district, mention must be made of folk-dancecalled *garba* and *ras* which had their origin in certain religious observances of the people, and later came to be associated with social occasions as a form of pastime and merriment. *Garba*, *garbi* and *ras*, so popular in Saurashtra are said to have originated with Lord Krishna. *Garbas* and *ras* for example, played both by men and women during Navratri (the first nine days of the Hindu month of Ashvin) are the commonest form of celebrations of this ancient festival in Gujarat. In public squares, streets, lanes and by-lanes a *garbi* or *mandvi*, (a wooden frame about three feet in height) decorated with coloured paper flags and shining tinsel and having a picture of the goodess fixed therein is illuminated with numerous lamps and placed in the centre. While some *garbis* are nowadays made of such costly material like brass or stainless steel designed in ornate shapes, in their simplest form they take the shape and form of perforated earthen pot wherein an oil or *ghee* lamp is lighted. The participants in *garba* or *ras* move round in circle, sometime with different steps in pairs or groups intervening. The song is generally led by one or two of the participants, the rest following in chorus. Sometimes a separate singer or group of singers leads the song sitting in the centre of the circle or outside it. The songs sung are in praise of Mother goddess or Lord Krishna or popular folk-songs. Time is generally kept by clapping of hands and movement of steps, sometimes accompanied with snapping of fingers. The movements as also the formations of *garbi* and *garba* are similar. *Garbi*, however, played as it is by males, is more vigorous and has a quicker rhythm as compared with *garba*.

Ras or *dandia-ras* is a variation of the *garba* folk-dance played by both men and women. Each player has a pair of *dandia* (small sticks or batons) one in each hand. The players move round in circle in pairs and strike alternately with their own and with those of their partners. Different dance steps and formations are used to the accompaniment of music, instrumental and vocal. The *ras* is supposed to have been invented by Lord Krishna during the days of his childhood in the groves of Vrindavan. A particular variation of *ras* consists of an equal number of men and women playing alternately with *dandia* as *gopas* and *gopis*. Sometimes a boy or a girl dressed up like Lord Krishna stands in the centre of the circle with a

flute in hand while the *ras* is played. In villages, men participate in *ras* or *garbas* in the main public square near the village *chora*, but women sing *garbas* in lanes or *sheri* in different localities. On the other hand, in large towns women sing *garbas* in public squares also. Many a time they move jointly with men, though participation by men is generally on the decline. To promote and propagate this fascinating art the State Government organises *garba-ras* competitions every year at different places in the State and awards special prizes and shields to those adjudged best. A number of voluntary organisations take part in the competition.[1]

Bhavai

Another item alike of entertainment and celebration is *bhavai*, a kind of folk-drama which is a simple performance in the open without elaborate stage arrangements. It is generally performed from 10 p. m. till late into the night, and its themes centre round some religious or social anecdotes, mixing some moral lesson with entertainment. The community professionally engaged in its performance is known as *bhavaya*. *Bhavayas* move in *mandlis* or groups of 10 to 15 members from village to village for nine months from October to June. They get their daily food requirements and other facilities from the villagers in addition to the payments made at the time they leave the village.

Bhavai has its own importance in the celebration of Navratri festivtal. Not only *bhavayas* but members of other castes unreservedly participate in *bhavai* before the goddess. Some families even have a tradition through generations to play *bhavai* before the goddess in Navratri for which purpose they come down to their native place from their place of work and business whatever the distance. The female roles are also performed by males in *bhavai*. Some persons acquire wide fame for particular roles. For example a government servant in the former Bhavnagar State had a family vow to perform the *vesh* or act of Bahucharaji on Ashvin Sud 8 at the village Bhandaria, to see which hundreds of people went there from Bhavnagar and other places by train, taxi or tonga.

The performance of *bhavai* in this district is considered to be unique. The *garbi* is kept on one side in the pandal with the musicians sitting opposite to it. Harmonium, *tabla*, *jhanj*, *pakhaj* and *bhungal* are the musical instruments used. Men and women spectators sit separately on either side, the centre of the pandal being used as the stage without wings or curtains. The actors make their entries from the nearby street where a room is kept for make-up and dressing. At the commencement, an actor pays homage to the goddess by bowing to the *garbi* and then goes out of the booth. The singers begin to sing the song called *avani* or *avanu* to receive the actor in his assigned role. The *bhungal* is blown, and the actor re-enters to enact his

1. TRIVEDI R. K., Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, p. 120

part, singing and dancing, generally beginning with the *vesh* (performance or act) of Ganapati. The important *vesh* or acts presented in a *bhavai* include those of Ganapati, Brahmin, *Miyan-Bibi*, *Jhanda Jhulan*, *Bahuchara*, *Kalika* and *Rama-Ravan*. The first two are performed daily in the beginning; followed by two or three others. The *vesh* of *Bahuchara* is performed on the eighth day, that of *Kalika* on the ninth, while *Rama-Ravan* is performed on Dassera. The themes of *bhavai* are historical, religious, or social with some moral lesson mixed with comic enterfainment. The programme ends with *arti* of *Mataji*.

From innocent entertainment *bhavai* came to degenerate into vulgar performances, justified by some with the argument that a child can behave without any inhibition before his mother, and *bhavai* which is performed before and in honour of the goddess should be without any prudish restrictions. The words *bhavai* and *bhavado* thus came to signify some shameless or disgraceful performances.

The art of *bhavai* has also declined in recent times. With the spread of education and change in the outlook and life of the people, the demand for more refined enetrtainment in the form of cinemas, dramas and circus have greater attraction for the people. However, at a time when there was no organised theatre, *bhavai* provided good diversion to village folk. Its usefulness lies in its spontaneity, its folklore and drama which the villagers easily follow and in its inexpensive character which brings entertainment to the very doors of the villagers. Efforts are, therefore, being made after Independence to revive and encourage *bhavai* by State aid as a form of popular entertainment by including it as one of the items of the annual Drama Festival organised in Gujarat.[1]

Rama-lila, a folk-drama depicting the life of Lord Rama was another form of public entertainment which was very popular in the past. Its performance was attended to by a large number of people, rich and poor, young and old. With the increasing influence of other forms of refined entertainment, the *Rama-lila* has ceased to be popular.

Public Games and Recreation

While a good number of indigenous outdoor games has been replaced by western games, many of them have still retained their popularity. For example, the old games of *hu-tu-tu* and *kho-kho* are still played both in towns and villages with almost the same zeal and interest as in the past. At the same time games like *gilli-danda* are being forgotten gradually atleast in the urban part of the district, and their place taken up by western games like cricket, football, tennis, badminton, etc. Facilities for playing such

1. Trivedi R. K., Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, p. 121

games are provided in high schools, colleges and sports clubs or gymkhanas. Inter-school and inter-collegiate competitions in such sports are regularly organised. The increasing interest of the people in games and sports is evident from the large crowds that test matches, competitions and tournaments nowadays attract. As for indoor games the game of carrom has gained popularity among youngsters while playing cards, bridge and rummy is a favourite pastime with adults. The picture is slightly different in villages. Besides *langadi* and *gilli-danda* other minor games played in the countryside are *pakad-dav*, *santa-kukdi*, *topi-dav*, *kukdi-dav*, etc.

Besides the traditional games and forms of entertainments already noticed, quite a number of new forms of entertainment and recreation are coming up both in towns and villages. In urban areas sports clubs, gymkhanas, *vyayam mandals*, *shishu vihars* and the like are the recent innovations which have come into existence in modern times. These organisations cater to the need of recreation mostly of the well-to-do and higher middle classes. But for a majority of others who have hardly the time and the money to spend after such pursuits, it is the occasional visit to picture houses, which is the only form of entertainment they can afford. While the elder section of the higher and middle classes prefer to go to clubs and gymkhanas in the evening, the younger people in towns studying at high schools and colleges have their own sports clubs, gymkhanas and associations, where games like cricket, badminton, tennis, football, etc., can be played. At clubs and gymkhanas, the games usually played by the adults are rummy or table tennis, alternated by tennis and badminton. The city of Bhavnagar has a number of such places and include among others the Motibag Club, Bhavsinhji Cricket Club, Ganesh Krida Mandal and a number of other *akhadas* in various localities. At the town and mahal headquarters, similar organisations exist which are principally taken advantage of by the local officers and the gentry on the one hand and the student population on the other. The Rotary Club and the Lions Club have also come into existence in recent times.

Villages had their own forms of entertainment and recreation. While the children play such traditional games as *hu-tu-tu* and *kho-kho* which are still popular, there were many others like *langadi*, *gilli-danda*, *santa-kukadi*, *pakad-dav*, *topi-dav*, *kukadi-dav*, etc., some of which are fast disappearing. For the adults, *bhajan mandali* and *ras mandali* provide rest and recreation at night, when the male-folk assemble at the village *chora* and pass their time in singing *bhajan* and *kirtan*. With the passage of time and the impact of Community Development Programme, new forms of recreations are also coming up, though efforts are made to sustain and revive the older forms which are still popular with the people at large. These are youth clubs and *mahila mandals* which provide the younger generation with entertainment coupled with constructive activities of rural welfare.

HINDU CALENDAR

The celebration of various festivals by different religious communities is closely associated with the different systems of time reckoning or calendar in vogue in different parts of the country. The various systems of time reckoning which regulate the celebration of festivals in the district even to this day are the Vikram era, the Shaka era and the Hijri era. Mention must also be made of the Valabhi era which was at one time important and came into vogue in this region prior to the adoption of the Vikram era. The Valabhi era was started by the Valabhi dynasty which continued for three centuries. It adopted the Gupta era which later came to be known as the Valabhi era and commenced from Shaka Samvat 240 or 318 A.D. The Shaka or Shalivahan era though important elsewhere in the country is not in vogue in this district.

Hindus of Bhavnagar generally follow the Vikram Samvat (era) which precedes the Christian era by fifty-six years. The year begins with the month of Kartik, gets divided into three seasons, namely, winter consisting of the months of Kartik, Margashirsh, Paush and Magh : summer extending over the months of Phalgun, Chaitra, Vaishakh and Jyestha and monsoon comprising the months of Ashadh, Shravan, Bhadrapad and Ashvin. Each month is divided into two fortnights, *shukla paksha*, the bright fortnight when the moon is waxing and *krishna paksha* the dark fortnight when the moon is waning. Dates are reckoned by the day of the fortnight of each month.

MUSLIM CALENDAR

Muslims in Bhavnagar district generally follow Hijri era. This era is Arabic in origin. The Hijri era came into being from 15th July, 622 A.D. in the 42nd year of the life of the Mohammed Paigamber to commemorate his *hijrat* from Macca to Madina. A year according to this era is divided into the following 12 months :

1. Muharram, 2. Safar, 3. Rabi-ul-Awwal, 4. Rabi-us-Sani, 5. Jamadi-ul-Awwal, 6. Jamadi-us-Sani, 7. Rajab, 8. Shaaban, 9. Ramzan, 10. Shawwal, 11. Zilqaad, 12. Zilhijja.

FESTIVALS

"Man's desire to share his pleasures with his fellow beings by rejoicing in common is at the root of all festivals, either primitive or modern, religious or secular, social or political."[1] Festivals as they are celebrated in this country symbolise people's cultural, social and religious aspirations which besides helping them to lead a fuller and better life also remove its monotony by providing physical diversion and mental recreation. Though principally

1. TRIVEDI R. K., Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, p. 5

associated with religion there are a number of occasions wherein the social aspect assumes prominence. In fact, festivals are special days, periods of time and seasons which are so designed as to ensure individual joy by practising religion commingled with social joy and domestic happiness. All traditional or conventional festivals can be thus divided into two broad categories, namely, (i) purely religious and (ii) socio-religious, to which a third category can now be added in the form of national festivals. These can be further classified into :

(a) Seasonal,

(b) Birth anniversary of incarnations of God,

(c) Events or objects of religious significance,

  (i) Religious occasions,

  (ii) Propitiation of some deity or element of nature,

  (iii) Practice of penance and austerity and performance of *yajnas* (a) to earn religious merit or (b) to achieve a cherished desire.

(d) Commencement of different eras,

(e) National festivals,

(f) Domestic festivals and social events,

(g) Miscellaneous.

Hindu Festivals

Most of the festivals associated with rejoicing and merry making take place in the fair weather when days are long and bright and free from excessive heat or rains. The principal festivals like Divali, Holi, Makara Sankranti, Vasant Panchami, Navratri, etc., are celebrated during these periods, but festivals which require confinement to the house and practice of penance as during the *chaturmas* fall in the rainy season. Gauri Vrata, Vat-Savitri Vrata, Ekadashi, Bol Choth, Rishi Panchami, etc., are practised during the rainy season when the people generally keep indoors and can find time for religious observances. Of all the numerous festivals celebrated in the district the most common, the most important and the most popular among the people are the Divali and Holi festivals, followed by Navratri or the festival of 9 nights. These are spontaneous in their observation and distinguished by a spirit of gay revelry, even fun and mischief at the time of the Holi or the Spring festival. Navratri or the festival of 9 nights is the most popular festival wherein both the religious as well as the social aspect of entertainment predominates. Another type of festival which enjoys popular esteem and participation in modern times is the Republic Day celebrations, which are accompanied by a uumber of cultural activities, public processions, flags alutations, etc.

While some of the important Jain and Muslim festivals have been described in the pages that follow, the Hindu festivals being numerous have been dealt with in a separate annexure at the end of this Chapter.

Jain Festivals

Jain festivals are generally associated with severe austerities and fasting and always with worship. The devotee is required to avoid, in addition to roots which are prohibited on ordinary days, leafy vegetables, dry fruits, tasty food preparations, milk and curd and in extreme cases even water. The reason is the great emphasis placed by Jainism on *tap* or penance as a means to earn religious merit. Thus it is the religious aspect which is prominent in Jain festivals.

The principal Jain festivals are Paryushan, Oli (*Siddhachakra Puja*) Kartik Purnima and Mahavir Jayanti.

Kartik Purnima (Kartik Sud 15) marks the close of the austerities of *Chaturmas* or the four monsoon months starting from Ashadh Sud 15. It has particular significance for the holy mount Shatrunjaya situated near Palitana in this district, as it reopens on this day for pilgrimage after remaining closed for the four monsoon months. Devout Jains who have undertaken the austerities of *Chaturmas* (four months) end them on this day. The day is also observed as the birthday of Shri Hemchandracharya, the well-known learned Jain saint who was born this day of Vikram Samvat 1145.

Paryushan or Pajusan, the most sacred of the Jain festivals is the occasion of continuous religious activities and strict austerities. It is observed by all, high and low. The Shwetambars observe it from Shravan Vad 12 to Bhadrapad Sud 4, the Digambars from Bhadrapad Sud 5 to Sud 14. Complete fasts are enjoined to be undertaken during Paryushan. Those who cannot fast on all the days should fast atleast for some days during this *parva*. Everybody fasts on the last day popularly known as *samvatsari*, considered to be the most sacred of all. *Samvatsari* denotes the annual *pratikraman* or expiration of sins, directed to be performed during Paryushan. On this day as an atonement of his sins, every Jain asks forgiveness of others for any offence that he might have given during the year gone by. This is known as *khamavavun* or pardon.

Oli Siddhachakra Puja (Chaitra and Ashvin Sud 7 to 15)—The two olis observed by Shwetambar Jains are called *Shashvati Parvas* as they are believed to have been observed eternally in the same form during the times of all *tirthankars*. Shwetambars consider it next in importance only to Paryushan and celebrate it for nine days from Sud 7 to *Purnima* twice a year in Chaitra and Ashvin. During these days *Navpadas* nine steps—represented on the *Siddhachakra* or Saint's wheel are worshipped in every Shwetambar temple. The austerities of Oli are observed for nine days, each of which is assigned to one of the nine *padas* in the *Siddhachakra*, which is worshipped on that day. Partial fast is observed on all these days.

Mahavir Jayanti (Chaitra Sud 13) is the birth anniversary of Mahavir Swami, the 24th and the last Jain *tirthankar* (born in 599 B. C.). Besides

religious ceremonies at the temple, processions are taken out with the idol of Mahavir. Digambar Jains also celebrate Virshasan Jayanti on Shravan Vad 1 the day on which Mahavir after achieving omniscience, gave his first religious sermon.

Jains also observe the *Nirvan Kalyanak* or the holy anniversary of the *Nirvan* of Mahavir on the Divali day (Ashwin Vad 30).

Muslim Festivals

The two sects Sunnis and Shiahs, have different holidays except Muharram, Ramzan and Bakri Id festivals which are common to both. In the beginning of the year comes the month of Muharram which is held by Shiahs in special veneration as being the month in which Imam Hussain, the son of Ali, was killed. His death is the subject of public mourning during the first ten days when fasting and self denial are also enjoined. An interesting religious activity in the Muharram festival is the preparing of *taziahs* or *tabuts*, bamboo and tinsel models of the shrine of the Imam at Karbala, some of them large and handsome, costing a few hundred rupees. These shrines are taken round in procession on the tenth day and submerged into water of a river or lake. Sweet bread and sugared water are distributed among friends in the evening. Shiahs, unlike Sunnis, keep Muharram, for forty days. Of these the first ten are time of special mourning. A band of Shiahs dressed in black and with bare feet take in procession Hasan and Hussain's standards from the *Imamwada* to the house of someone who has made a vow. There a *maulvi* delivers an elegiac discourse (*waaz*) describing the martyrdom of Hussain and the sufferings of the martyr's wife and children to which the hearers respond with sighs of utmost grief. On the tenth day, Shiahs repeat dirges and offer prayers for the souls of Hasan and Hussain.

The thirteenth of Safar, is known as *tera tezi* or *talan tezi* and kept by Sunnis in memory of the Prophet's recovery from a severe sickness. Another important day is the twelfth of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the *wafat* or day of the Prophet's death. This day is called Id-e-Milad as it is also the day of the birth of the Prophet, *Id* meaning happiness and *Milad* meaning birth. It is celebrated more as the birth anniversary than as the day of death of the Prophet. In the evening *khir*, a dish of rice and milk of which the Prophet was fond, is cooked. The orthodox visit the mosque and offer prayers. It is observed to mark the *maulud* or birthday of the Prophet by feasting and giving presents. The *gyarvi* festival falls on the eleventh day of Rabi-us-Sani on which Sunnis celebrate the birth of Saiyad Abdul-Kadir Jilani by illuminating their houses and eating *malidah*, (powdered-sugar bread) at night. On the first eleven nights of Rabi-ul-Awwal in honour of the Prophet's birth *waazes* (sermons) are preached. Great numbers attend them and on the eleventh day, charitable people give a morsel of sacred food called *taburruk*

to every one present. The Shab-i-barat which falls on the night of the fourteenth day of Shaaban is among Sunnis characterised by the preparations of special dishes, which are distributed to the poor after the recitation of the *fatiha*, (opening chapter of the *Quran*) and by feasting of friends and relations. Greater than this festival is the Id-ul-fitr commonly known as Ramzan Id which falls on the first day of Shawwal. Throughout the preceding month of Ramzan a general fast is observed everyday from sunrise to sunset prayers known as *taraveeh* are offered in the mosque and *Quran* recited during the month. Ramzan Id marks the close of the fast and in consequence Musalmans-Sunnis and Shiahs of all ages and both sexes bathe, put on new clothes, perfume themselves, repair to the mosque, and thereafter foregather with friends and relations and bid them God-speed. Between eight and twelve in the morning, men form a procession and escort the *kazi* or other Musalman of high position to the *idgah*, the place for special Id prayers, most of them repeating mentally the glorification of the name of Allah. The prayers at the *idgah* last for about an hour and a half. They include an Arabic sermon in praise of Id which the *kazi* reads standing on the pulpit, wooden staff in hand in imitation of the Prophet. When the prayers and sermon are over. the people go home and spend the rest of the day in feasting. making presents and paying and receiving visits. The Id-i-baqr falls on the tenth day of Zilhijja, and is characterised, like Ramzan Id, by prayers in mosques. Sunni Muslims go in a procession to the *idgah* to offer prayers. When the prayers are concluded, those who can afford it offer *quarbanis* (sacrifice) of goats and send presents of its flesh to relations and friends. The eighteenth of Zilhijja is a great Shiah holiday known as Id-i-ghadir or the lake holiday. On this day the Prophet seated by a lake proclaimed in a joyous moment that Ali was his own flesh and body. Shiahs also observe the twenty-eighth of Zilhijja as a festival of three days in memory of *Baba-Shuja-ud-din* a fire worshipping convert to Islam, who on this day murdered the Khalifah Umar.

PILGRIM CENTRES[1]

The two most important places of pilgrimage in the district are (i) Gadhada for the Hindu Vaishnavas and (ii) Palitana for the Jains.

Gadhada is one of the principal seats of the Swaminarayan sect, established by its founder, Sahajanand Swami or Shriji Maharaj in 1804. Mount Shatrunjaya near Palitana is the holiest of the five sacred hills of the Jains. It is associated with Rishabhdev, the first Jain *tirthankar* also called Adinath or Adishwar.

FAIRS

Fairs are generally associated with deities and religious observances. Of the 57 fairs held in the district, one is held in January (Paush), two in

1. For details, see Chapter XIX—Places of Interest (Gadhada and Palitana)

February (Magh), three in April (Chaitra), one in July, as many as forty-five in August (Shravan), two in September (Bhadrapad), two in October (Ashvin) and one in the month of Shawwal of the Muslim calendar. Of the forty-five fairs held in August, (Shravan), 34 each are attended by a congregation below 5,000, the total assemblage at them being 65,275; 10 are visited by a congregation ranging from 5,000 to 9,999, with an aggregate of 56,500 visitors and the one that remains is attended by about 20,000 persons. The congregation at other fairs varies according to the season and exigencies of agricultural operations.

The largest number of fairs (25) is held in reverence to Lord Shiva, who attracts 97,275 devotees. Next in order (16) are fairs dedicated to Lord Krishna, with a total congregation of 39,000, inclusive of 25,000 persons visiting the Jal-Jhilani fair held at Gadhada which is an important place of pilgrimage established by Sahajanand Swami, the founder of the Vaishnavite sect of Swaminarayan. Other fairs are dedicated to a local saint, Hanumanji and Mataji or Mother Goddess. Three fairs are held on the seashore, one on the river-bank, and one each in honour of Shitala Mata and Serpent God.

The fairs which deserve specific mention are the Jal-Jhilani fair at Gadhada and the Bhadarvi Amas fair at Koliyak in Bhavnagar taluka. Apart from the usual religious practices of having a dip in the holy waters of the river or sea, and reverance to the deity cultural activities are also organised by the Block Development authorities, who arrange seminars, cinema shows, lectures and exhibitions for the visiting public where posters depicting the developmental activities are displayed.

On the occasion of Jal-Jhilani fair, followers of Swaminarayan sect from all parts of Saurashtra, Gujarat and Maharashtra, including Harijans, participate in the fair in which, over and above the permanent shops of the town, about 20 stalls and booths are erected. The main commodities sold are sweetmeats, toys, fruits (especially bananas) and hot drinks like tea and coffee. Handloom textiles manufactured by the local handloom factories and toys prepared in the neighbouring villages are also brought to the fair for sale. Two or three stalls are put up by pavement photographers. The fair is organised by the authorities of the Swaminarayan temple who have spacious *dharmashalas* attached to the temple where thousands of pilgrims can stay at a time and are well looked after and given free food and lodging by the temple authorities.

The fair held at Koliyak, situated about 14 miles to the south of Bhavnagar city is held on Shravan Vad *amavasya*, the day of the installation of Nishkalank Mahadev in the sea near the village. There is no temple but the *Shivilnga* is installed on a four feet high platform on the rock. It can be reached only when there is an ebb in the sea. One can go there on Sud or Vad I when the spot is accessible from morning till noon but should return to the shore by 1 p.m. before the place is submerged by tidal waters.

THE NEW TRENDS

Far reaching changes in every walk of life have been taking place in different parts of the country in recent years particularly after Independence. Transformation in matters of dress, ornaments, social customs, habits of the people, their mode of living, their religious beliefs and practices has been complete and all-pervading. The influence of the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi who advised plain living is keenly felt in all strata of society. Simplicity has been recognized as a virtue and accepted as a keynote of social behaviour. The rich and the poor take equal delight and pride in wearing coarse *khaddar* cloth. Despite economic inequalities the annoying distinctions between one caste or class and the other have begun to disappear. The social superiority and other privileges that the feudal and moneyed classes once enjoyed and the humiliating treatment that the disadvantageous classes received at their hands no longer persist. The evils of untouchability have begun to disappear slowly but gradually. Scope of higher education and entry into government service has opened up new vistas of economic advancement. Women are taking a rightful place in society as equal partners of men in the pursuit of political as well as economic activities. The civil or inter-caste marriages which were unheard of in the past are gradually on the increase. The spirit of independence and self-reliance pervader everywhere. People have become politically conscious and aware of their rights and responsibilities. Even an illiterate agriculturist takes keen interest in the day-to-day developments of the countiy. He is eager as never before to take advantage of the benefits which a democratic form of government confers.

Agricultural condition in the peninsula of Kathiawar prior to Independence was far from happy except in some of the foimer States like Bhavnagar-where the cultivators enjoyed limited occupancy rights. But in the rest of the areas they were mere tenants-at-will. Besides land revenue in the form of crop share a number of levies recovered under various names left the cultivator little from his own produce. To put an end to this conditions the Government of Saurashtra implemented a number of land reforms measures, such as abolition of Girasdari, conferment of occupancy rights, introduction of cash assessment on the basis of rates prevailing in the neighbouring areas and abolition of various cesses and perquisites. All these measures went a long way in improving the social and economic structure of the countryside by making the tiller the occupant of the land held by him and giving him security of tenure and fixity of land revenue payable by him. Various schemes of agricultural development which tended to inciease the out-put of land were simultaneously taken in hand. The pace of industrialisation and urbanization also offered greater scope of employment in urban pursuits. The entire economy of the district has been thus undergoing quick transformation as a result of concentrated efforts the State and the people are making in various fields of economic activities.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT

Area, Houses

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Population per sq. mile	No. of villages: Inhabited	No. of villages: Uninhabited	Number of towns
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	District Total	T	313	881	18	18
		R	217	881	18	–
		U	7,246	–	–	18
1	Bhavnagar	T	648	57	–	1
		R	157	57	–	–
		U	18,837	...	–	1
2	Gogha	T	227	62	–	1
		R	206	62	–	–
		U	1,270	–	–	1
3	Vallabhipur	T	181	55	5	1
		R	152	55	5	..
		U	5,526	–	–	1
4	Botad	T	268	51	–	2
		R	162	51	–	...
		U	7,506	...	–	2
5	Gadhada	T	204	75	–	1
		R	180	75	–	..
		U	3,041	–	–	1
6	Palitana	T	327	92	1	1
		R	242	92	1	..
		U	4,916	–	–	1
7	Sihor	T	300	66	3	1
		R	239	66	3	...
		U	12,210	–	–	1
8	Umrala	T	280	42	1	1
		R	261	42	1	–
		U	53,188	...	–	1
9	Gariadhar	T	318	50	1	1
		R	272	50	1	–
		U	28,283	...	–	1
10	Kundla	T	276	81	–	1
		R	210	81	–	–
		U	30,122	–	–	1
11	Mahuva	T	317	133	–	1
		R	255	133	–	–
		U	2,561	–	–	1
12	Talaja	T	310	117	2	1
		R	294	117	2	–
		U	1,285	–	...	1

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part II-A, *General Population Tables*, pp. 41–43

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and Population

Number of occupied residential houses	Population: Persons	Population: Males	Population: Females	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Taluka/Mahal
8	9	10	11	1	2
181,154	1,119,435	577,729	541,709	T	District Total
128,071	767,006	395,028	371,978	R	
53,083	352,429	182,701	169,728	U	
33,594	230,900	120,266	110,634	T	1 Bhavnagar
9,629	54,427	28,181	26,246	R	
23,965	176,473	92,085	84,388	U	
8,034	50,709	26,037	24,672	T	2 Gogha
7,082	45,237	23,534	21,703	R	
952	5,472	2,503	2,969	U	
6,270	40,992	21,261	19,731	T	3 Vallabhipur
5,258	34,084	17,672	16,412	R	
1,012	6,908	3,589	3,319	U	
13,198	77,682	40,207	37,475	T	4 Botad
7,725	46,380	23,996	22,384	R	
5,473	31,302	16,211	15,091	U	
11,691	71,855	37,038	34,817	T	5 Gadhada
10,288	62,732	32,325	30,407	R	
1,403	9,123	4,713	4,410	U	
14,994	89,871	46,494	43,377	T	6 Palitana
10,954	65,290	33,711	31,579	R	
4,040	24,581	12,783	11,798	U	
11,918	74,023	38,464	35,559	T	7 Sihor
9,719	58,760	30,698	28,066	R	
2,199	15,263	7,770	7,493	U	
7,107	44,206	22,890	21,316	T	8 Umrala
6,331	39,951	20,719	19,232	R	
776	4,255	2,171	2,084	U	
9,153	56,401	29,061	27,340	T	9 Gariadhar
8,082	48,199	24,874	23,325	R	
1,071	8,202	4,187	4,015	U	
21,782	129,726	66,561	63,165	T	10 Kundla
16,456	98,675	50,527	48,148	R	
5,326	31,051	16,034	15,017	U	
26,531	149,497	76,373	73,124	T	11 Mahuva
20,999	116,765	59,331	57,434	R	
5,532	32,732	17,042	15,690	U	
16,882	103,375	53,077	50,498	T	12 Talaja
15,548	96,506	49,464	47,042	R	
1,334	7,067	3,613	3,454	U	

STATEMENT

Census Houses and the uses

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total No. of Census Houses	Census Houses vacant at the time of house-listing	Occupied Census Dwellings	Occupied Census Shop-*cum*-dwellings
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	District Total ..	**T**	**290,174**	**30,145**	**198,787**	**885**
		R	**193,753**	**18,668**	**133,251**	**640**
		U	**96,421**	**11,477**	**65,536**	**245**
1	Bhavnagar ..	T	60,654	7,233	43,019	201
		R	14,532	2,175	9,937	42
		U	46,122	5,058	33,082	159
2	Gogha	T	12,979	1,199	9,041	33
		R	10,872	858	7,771	30
		U	2,107	341	1,270	3
3	Vallabhipur ..	T	10,324	836	7,096	13
		R	8,503	694	5,843	11
		U	1,821	142	1,253	2
4	Botad	T	19,453	1,813	13,407	49
		R	10,990	765	7,758	30
		U	8,463	1,048	5,649	19
5	Gadhada	T	19,209	1,732	12,842	51
		R	16,300	1,437	11,009	47
		U	2,909	295	1,833	4
6	Palitana	T	22,311	2,140	15,335	91
		R	15,381	1,283	10,942	81
		U	6,930	857	4,393	10
7	Sihor	T	19,889	2,137	13,090	119
		R	14,963	1,370	9,978	109
		U	4,926	767	3,112	10
8	Umrala	T	11,863	1,037	7,801	32
		R	10,531	826	7,011	30
		U	1,332	211	790	2
9	Gariadhar ..	T	12,916	1,316	9,292	43
		R	10,801	1,113	8,014	40
		U	2,115	203	1,278	3
10	Kundla	T	32,796	3,488	22,623	67
		R	24,777	2,712	17,117	48
		U	8,019	776	5,506	19
11	Mahuva	T	41,032	4,527	27,042	110
		R	31,725	3,133	21,040	101
		U	9,307	1,394	6,002	9
12	Talaja	T	26,748	2,687	18,199	76
		R	24,378	2,302	16,831	71
		U	2,370	385	1,368	5

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables*, pp. 6–9

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to which they are put

Houses used as dwellings					
Workshop-*cum*-dwellings	Non-dwellings	Others	Total/Rural/Urban		Taluka/Mahal
8	9	10	3		2
1,544	**22,703**	**36,110**	**T**		**District Total**
1,119	**11,000**	**29,075**	**R**		
425	**11,703**	**7,035**	**U**		
72	6,062	4,067	T	1	Bhavnagar
46	846	1,486	R		
26	5,216	2,581	U		
84	742	1,880	T	2	Gogha
78	540	1,595	R		
6	202	285	U		
14	672	1,693	T	3	Vallabhipur
13	471	1,471	R		
1	201	222	U		
438	1,779	1,967	T	4	Botad
336	650	1,451	R		
102	1,129	516	U		
128	1,287	3,169	T	5	Gadhada
97	940	2,770	R		
31	347	399	U		
58	1,839	2,848	T	6	Palitana
43	836	2,196	R		
15	1,003	652	U		
128	1,498	2,917	T	7	Sihor
107	991	2,408	R		
21	507	509	U		
138	854	2,001	T	8	Umrala
98	694	1,872	R		
40	160	129	U		
60	909	1,296	T	9	Gariadhar
60	624	950	R		
..	285	346	U		
259	2,732	3,627	T	10	Kundla
82	1,573	3,245	R		
177	1,159	382	U		
117	2,700	6,536	T	11	Mahuva
112	1,539	5,800	R		
5	1,161	736	U		
48	1,629	4,109	T	12	Talaja
47	1,296	3,831	R		
1	333	278	U		

STATEMENT

Distribution of Sample Households Living in Census Houses used Wholly or Material

(Based on

Predominant

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total No. of house-holds	Grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo	Timber	Mud	Unburnt bricks	Burnt bricks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	District Total	T	40,533	215	6	20,198	1,666	9,821
		R	27,134	83	4	18,387	1,453	1,767
		U	13,399	132	2	1,811	213	8,054
1	Bhavnagar	T	8,740	67	1	1,083	160	6,530
		R	2,012	36	...	862	140	483
		U	6,728	31	1	221	20	6,047
2	Gogha	T	1,842	2	—	1,096	85	142
		R	1,582	2	...	1,095	85	142
		U	260	—	...	1	—	...
3	Vallabhipur	T	1,427	1	...	987	136	185
		R	1,175	1	...	987	3	83
		U	252	—	—	..	133	102
4	Botad	T	2,789	...	—	2,013	—	118
		R	1,631	..	..	1,523	..	..
		U	1,158	...	...	490	...	118
5	Gadhada	T	2,608	1	2	2,302	46	49
		R	2,234	1	2	2,104	..	5
		U	374	..	—	198	46	44
6	Palitana	T	3,152	1	—	1,898	102	739
		R	2,219	1	—	1,804	94	84
		U	933	...	...	94	8	655
7	Sihor	T	2,699	6	1	1,500	47	371
		R	2,067	6	1	1,489	47	220
		U	632	—	—	11	...	151
8	Umrala	T	1,605	1	—	1,254	14	173
		R	1,436	1	...	1,201	10	90
		U	169	—	...	53	4	83
9	Gariadhar	T	1,887	1	1	1,681	5	17
		R	1,630	1	...	1,492	3	5
		U	257	—	1	189	2	12
10	Kundla	T	4,618	15	—	3,460	155	608
		R	3,472	7	—	2,941	155	158
		U	1,146	8	—	519	..	450
11	Mahuva	T	5,498	110	—	1,214	854	390
		R	4,284	17	—	1,209	854	217
		U	1,214	93	...	5	—	173
12	Talaja	T	3,668	10	1	1,710	62	499
		R	3,392	10	1	1,680	62	280
		U	276	..	—	30	—	219

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, pp. 478–481

III·10

Partly as Dwelling by Predominant Material of Wall and Predominant of Roof

20 per cent Sample)

material of wall				Predominant material of roof						
C. I. sheets or other metal sheets	Stone	Cement con crete	All other mate-rial	Grass, leaves, reeds, thatch, wood or bamboo	Tiles, slate shingle	Corru-gated iron, zinc or other metal sheets	Asbe-stos cement sheets	Brick and lime	Concrete and stone	All other mate-rial
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
79	**8,068**	**92**	**388**	**1,285**	**37,060**	**387**	**186**	**3**	**1,503**	**109**
18	**5,140**	**60**	**222**	**475**	**26,363**	**119**	**39**	**1**	**71**	**66**
61	**2,928**	**32**	**166**	**810**	**10,697**	**268**	**147**	**2**	**1,432**	**43**
47	730	23	99	309	6,932	178	125	1	1,194	1
1	433	2	55	55	1,945	6	1	..	4	1
16	297	21	44	254	4,987	172	124	1	1,190	..
1	506	7	3	52	1,788	2	..	..	..	..
1	248	7	2	23	1,557	2	..	..	..	..
..	258	..	1	29	231	..	..	..	..	..
..	113	5	..	3	1,420	..	1	..	3	..
..	96	5	..	3	1,171	..	..	..	1	..
..	17	..	..	..	249	..	1	..	2	..
..	657	..	1	37	2,656	17	14	..	66	..
..	108	..	..	11	1,614	3		..	3	..
.	549	..	1	26	1,041	14	14	..	62	..
7	188	6	7	107	2,458	12	6	..	18	7
1	116	4	1	36	2,169	7	5	..	11	6
6	72	2	6	71	289	5	1	..	7	1
6	297	26	83	73	3,003	20	12	..	40	4
1	210	25	..	18	2,187	2	12	..	..	..
5	87	1	83	55	816	18	..	..	40	4
2	760	2	10	41	2,536	47	5	..	52	18
2	297	..	5	29	1,956	35	5	..	28	14
..	463	2	5	12	580	12	..	..	24	4
2	149	10	2	13	1,554	8	15	1	13	1
2	122	10	..	13	1,387	7	15	..	13	1
..	27	..	2	..	167	1	..	1	..	..
1	179	2	..	22	1,857	6	..	..	1	1
1	126	2	..	12	1,613	4	..	..	..	1
..	53	..	..	10	244	2	..	..	1	..
..	367	3	10	93	4,425	26	2	..	60	12
.	210	..	1	29	3,433	7	..	..	3	..
..	157	3	9	64	902	19	2	..	57	12
11	2,741	6	172	374	4,949	65	5	1	46	58
8	1,818	4	157	85	4,118	41	1	1	2	36
3	923	2	15	289	831	24	4	..	44	22
2	1,361	2	1	161	3,483	6	1	..	10	7
1	1.356	1	1	161	3,213	5	..	..	. 6	7
1	25	1	..	..	270	1	1	..	4	..

STATEMENT

Sample Households Classified by Number of

(Based on

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total No. of house-holds	Total No. of members: Males	Total No. of members: Females	Total No. of rooms
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	District Total	**T**	**40,533**	**118,713**	**111,274**	**60,345**
		R	**27,134**	**81,692**	**76,834**	**38,517**
		U	**13,399**	**37,021**	**34,440**	**21,828**
1	Bhavnagar	T	8,740	24,014	21,835	14,482
		R	2,012	6,183	5,710	2,619
		U	6,728	17,831	16,125	11,863
2	Gogha	T	1,842	5,133	5,002	2,826
		R	1,582	4,620	4,389	2,163
		U	260	513	613	663
3	Vallabhipur	T	1,427	4,312	4,068	2,129
		R	1,175	3,553	3,399	1,715
		U	252	759	669	414
4	Botad	T	2,789	8,540	7,919	4,012
		R	1,631	4,992	4,602	2,243
		U	1,158	3,548	3,317	1,769
5	Gadhada	T	2,608	7,685	7,173	3,829
		R	2,234	6,678	6,221	3,251
		U	374	1,007	952	578
6	Palitana	T	3,152	9,638	8,865	4,730
		R	2,219	6,762	6,261	3,362
		U	933	2,870	2,604	1,368
7	Sihor	T	2,699	7,949	7,367	4,076
		R	2,067	6,319	5,737	3,066
		U	632	1,630	1,630	1,012
8	Umrala	T	1,605	4,793	4,265	2,395
		R	1,436	4,365	3,863	2,165
		U	169	428	402	230
9	Gariadhar	T	1,887	5,806	5,575	2,882
		R	1,630	4,877	4,752	2,400
		U	257	929	823	422
10	Kundla	T	4,618	13,850	13,297	6,626
		R	3,472	10,381	9,917	5,136
		U	1,146	3,469	3,380	1,490
11	Mahuva	T	5,498	15,886	15,296	7,035
		R	4,284	12,602	12,065	5,425
		U	1,214	3,284	3,231	1,610
12	Talaja	T	3,668	11,107	10,612	5,381
		R	3,392	10,360	9,918	4,966
		U	276	747	694	415

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables*, pp. 508–511

III·11

Members and by Number of Rooms Occupied

20 per cent Sample)

Households with no regular room			Households with one room				
No. of house-holds	No. of members: Males	No. of members: Females	No. of house-holds	No. of members: Males	No. of members: Females	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Taluka/Mahal
8	9	10	11	12	13	3	2
56	**233**	**137**	**26,994**	**70,613**	**66,696**	**T**	**District Total**
28	**73**	**77**	**18,563**	**49,700**	**46,989**	**R**	
28	**160**	**60**	**8,431**	**20,913**	**19,707**	**U**	
34	73	99	5,406	13,524	12,512	T	1 Bhavnagar
12	28	43	1,526	4,322	4,138	R	
22	45	56	3,880	9,202	8,374	U	
..	..	..	1,226	3,161	3,050	T	2 Gogha
..	..	..	1,147	3,016	2,900	R	
..	..	..	79	145	150	U	
..	..	..	889	2,343	2,184	T	3 Vallabhipur
..	..	..	755	2,009	1,879	R	
..	..	..	134	334	305	U	
1	1	2	1,862	5,069	4,731	T	4 Botad
..	..	..	1,129	3,124	2.875	R	
1	1	2	733	1,945	1,856	U	
2	2	..	1,705	4,467	4,190	T	5 Gadhada
2	2	..	1,471	3,922	3,677	R	
	..	..	234	545	513	U	
4	117	6	20,53	5,377	5,051	T	6 Palitana
3	10	6	1,390	3,662	3,397	R	
1	107	..	663	1,715	1,654	U	
7	19	23	1,710	4,478	4,176	T	7 Sihor
7	19	23	1,303	3,525	3,203	R	
..	...	..	407	953	973	U	
2	2	2	1,005	2,542	2,290	T	8 Umrala
1	1	1	886	2,272	2,028	R	
1	1	1	119	270	262	U	
1	7	1	1,186	3,085	3,014	T	9 Gariadhar
1	7	1	1.034	2,664	2,609	R	
..	..	..	152	421	405	U	
..	..	..	3,153	8,379	8,010	T	10 Kundla
..	..	..	2,256	5,841	5,606	R	
..	..	..	897	2,538	2,404	U	
4	8	4	4,342	11,726	11,272	T	11 Mahuva
1	2	3	3,379	9,289	8,885	R	
3	6	1	963	2,437	2,437	U	
1	4	..	2,457	6,462	6,216	T	12 Talaja
1	4	...	2,287	6,054	5,842	R	
..	..	..	170	408	374	U	

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Households with two rooms			Households with three rooms		
			No. of house-holds	No. of members		No. of house-holds	No. of members	
				Males	Females		Males	Females
1	2	3	14	15	16	17	18	19
	District Total	**T**	**9,895**	**33,047**	**30,807**	**1,966**	**7,540**	**6,936**
		R	**6,729**	**23,695**	**22,053**	**1,114**	**4,598**	**4,304**
		U	**3,166**	**9,352**	**8,754**	**852**	**2,942**	**2,629**
1	Bhavnagar	T	2,064	6,066	5,351	581	1,932	1,690
		R	383	1,428	1,169	46	201	178
		U	1,681	4,638	4,182	535	1,731	1,512
2	Gogha	T	421	1,320	1,279	84	329	282
		R	343	1,188	1,107	56	255	217
		U	78	132	172	28	74	65
3	Vallabhipur ..	T	432	1,500	1,442	71	276	281
		R	341	1,103	1,171	54	213	232
		U	91	307	271	17	63	49
4	Botad	T	739	2,554	2,418	110	443	417
		R	425	1,510	1,422	53	238	208
		U	314	1,044	996	57	205	209
5	Gadhada ..	T	689	2,313	2,142	128	517	485
		R	592	2,021	1,857	101	408	378
		U	97	292	285	27	109	107
6	Palitana ..	T	814	2,875	2,672	149	655	541
		R	631	2,210	2,063	106	463	371
		U	183	665	609	43	202	170
7	Sihor	T	765	2,542	2,356	118	452	416
		R	609	2,121	1,920	88	359	331
		U	156	421	436	30	93	85
8	Umrala .. .	T	464	1,651	1,443	91	356	317
		R	424	1,531	1,336	86	337	298
		U	40	120	107	5	19	19
9	Gariadhar ..	T	555	1,931	1,843	81	360	340
		R	481	1,661	1,595	65	283	276
		U	74	270	248	16	77	64
10	Kundla . .	T	1,117	3,889	3,771	226	919	882
		R	928	3,259	3,088	191	764	738
		U	189	630	683	35	155	144
11	Mahuva	T	926	3,188	3,046	145	581	575
		R	748	2,601	2,520	100	422	417
		U	178	587	526	45	159	158
12	Talaja	T	909	3,218	3,044	182	720	707
		R	824	2,972	2,805	168	665	660
		U	85	246	239	14	55	47

III·11—*contd.*

Households with four rooms			Households with five rooms or more				
No. of house-holds	No. of members: Males	No. of members: Females	No. of house-holds	No. of members: Males	No. of members: Females	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Taluka/Mahal
20	21	22	23	24	25	3	2
1,072	**4,562**	**4,363**	**550**	**2,718**	**2,338**	**T**	**District Total**
520	**2,559**	**2,450**	**180**	**1,067**	**961**	**R**	
552	**2,003**	**1,913**	**370**	**1,651**	**1,377**	**U**	
381	1,339	1,225	274	1,080	958	T	1 Bhavnagar
41	183	165	4	21	17	R	
340	1,156	1,060	270	1,059	941	U	
82	226	282	29	97	109	T	2 Gogha
25	112	108	11	49	57	R	
57	114	174	18	48	52	U	
23	119	87	12	74	74	T	3 Vallabhipur
16	86	66	9	52	51	R	
7	33	21	3	22	23	U	
61	296	290	16	177	61	T	4 Botad
21	102	82	3	18	15	R	
40	194	208	13	159	46	U	
70	333	307	14	53	49	T	5 Gadhada
57	280	268	11	45	41	R	
13	53	39	3	8	8	U	
92	428	415	40	186	180	T	6 Palitana
65	314	313	24	113	111	R	
27	114	102	16	73	69	U	
58	276	227	41	182	169	T	7 Sihor
39	188	165	21	107	95	R	
19	88	62	20	75	74	U	
31	165	159	12	77	54	T	8 Umrala
27	147	146	12	77	54	R	
4	18	13	..	..	..	U	
53	277	277	11	146	100	T	9 Gariadhar
43	220	234	6	42	37	R	
10	57	43	5	104	63	U	
91	454	423	31	209	211	T	10 Kundla
71	345	313	26	172	172	R	
20	109	110	5	37	39	U	
51	241	271	30	142	128	T	11 Mahuva
41	195	214	15	93	76	R	
10	46	57	15	49	52	U	
79	408	400	40	295	245	T	12 Talaja
74	387	376	38	278	235	R	
5	21	24	2	17	10	U	

STATEMENT

Fairs According to Day, Month and Size of

Deity	Month	Total: Number of fairs	Total: Congregation	Below 5,000: Number of fairs	Below 5,000: Congregation	5,000 to 9,999: Number of fairs	5,000 to 9,999: Congregation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total		**57**	**201,475**	**48**	**82,475**	**11**	**61,500**
SHIVA	*Total*	*25*	*97,275*	*18*	*41,275*	*6*	*36,000*
	February	1	4,500	1	4,500	..	
	July	1	1,500	1	1,500	..	..
	August	23	91,275	16	35,275	6	36,000
KRISHNA	August	*16*	*39,000*	*12*	*18,500*	*4*	*20,500*
SWAMINARAYAN	September	*1*	*25,000*	.		..	..
LOCAL SAINTS	September	*1*	*12,500*	..	.	.	..
HANUMAN	April	*2*	*6,000*	*2*	*6,000*	..	..
MATAJI	*Total*	*5*	*5,450*	*5*	*5,450*	..	.
	January	1	500	1	500		.
	February	1	3,000	1	3,000	..	
	August	1	1,250	1	1,250	..	.
	October	2	700	2	700	..	.
MUSLIM PIRS	Shawwal	*1*	*5,000*	..	..	*1*	*5,000*
SEA-GOD	*Total*	*3*	*4,750*	*3*	*4,750*	..	..
	April	1	1,000	1	1,000	..	.
	August	2	3,750	2	3,750	..	..
NADI-TIRTHA	August	*1*	*3,000*	*1*	*3,000*	..	..
SHITLA MATA	August	*1*	*2,250*	*1*	*2,250*	—	.
SERPENT-GOD	August	*1*	*1,250*	*1*	*1,250*	..	..

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals* p. 242

III·12

Congregation (In descending order of Congregation)

10,000 to 24,999		25,000 to 49,999		50,000 and above			
Number of fairs	Congregation	Number of fairs	Congregation	Number of fairs	Congregation	Month	Deity
9	10	11	12	13	14	2	1
2	**32,500**	**1**	**25,000**	.	..		**Total**
1	*20,000*	.	.	..	..	*Total*	SHIVA
..	..		.	..	..	February	
..	..			.	..	July	
1	20,000			.	..	August	
..	..	.	.	.	.	August	KRISHNA
..	..	*1*	*25,000*	..	..	September	SWAMINARAYAN
1	*12,500*	.	..	.	.	September	LOCAL SAINTS
..	.			..	..	April	HANUMAN
	..	.	.	..	.	*Total*	MATAJI
	..		..	..	..	January	
	.	.	.	..	..	February	
.	..		..	.	..	August	
	.	.	..	.	..	October	
.	..		..	..	..	Shawwal	MUSLIM PIRS
..	..		..	..	..	*Total*	SEA-GOD
.	..	..	..	..	..	April	
..	.	..	..	..	..	August	
..	..	.	..	..	..	August	NADI-TIRTHA
.	..	..	.	..	..	August	SHITLA MATA
..	..	..	..	..	..	August	SERPENT-GOD

ANNEXURE

Hindu Festivals

Almost in every month occurs a *tahevara* (festival) which all Hindus follow religiously. These are usually listed in the calendar (*panchanga*). In their observance a person is generally led by the tradition of his family, caste and local usage. The principal annual festivals commencing from Divali and New Year and their customary observances followed by Hindus of Bhavnagar district, is listed below month by month.

DIVALI FESTIVAL

There is no greater Hindu festival than Divali-appropriately known as the queen of festivals. It is both the climax and commencement of the yearly cycle of festivals marking the close of the old year and the ushering of the new. Its celebration is, therefore, spread over six consecutive days starting from Ashvin Vad 12 (Vagh Barash) and extending up to Kartik Sud 2 (Bhai Bij).

Vagh Barash to Bhai Bij

Vagh Barash—Ashvin Vad 12, though not actually a part of Divali, marks the minor festival inaugurating the Divali festivals. It is also known as Govatsa Dwadashi when, according to *Shastras*, a cow with a calf, preferably of matching colour, is to be worshipped in the evening on its return from grazing with libations of water at its feet and flower garlands and fed with a preparation of adad. Cow milk and milk preparations like curd, whey, *ghee*, etc., are forbidden on this day. *Shastras* enjoin the taking of a adad preparation in dinner.

Dhan Terash

Ashvin Vad 13 is dedicated to the worship of goddess Lakshmi in the form of *dhan* or wealth. People worship goddess of wealth in the form of coins, ornaments and other belongings as symbols of wealth. In ancient times the cow was considered to be the real wealth in the agricultural economy and was, therefore, worshipped as a symbol of Lakshmi on its return home in the evening from grazing. A herd of cows is called *dhan* from which also the day is called Dhan Terash. Cows are adorned, their horns and hoofs are painted and their necks decorated with strings of bronze bells. Shepherds and potters paint their cattle and donkeys as they are of great help in their business.

Source:

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V; Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*

Kali Chaudash

Ashvin Vad 14, also called Narak Chaturdashi and *Kalaratri* is assigned to goddess Mahakali and as this goddess is worshipped specially on this day it is named Kali Chaudash. It was on this day that the demon king Narakasur of Pragjyotishpur, the capital of the region of that name, was killed in battle by Satyabhama with her husband Shri Krishna at her back and the name Narak Chaturdashi has its origin to this incident. *Vam margis, tantriks* and *shaktas* believe that this night is particularly propitious for invoking spirits and call it *maharatri*. At midnight, *yakshas, gandharvas, kinnars, bhutas* and *pishachas*, etc., can be evoked on the burning ghat or cemetery. The *bhuvas, jatis* and such others, therefore, go to such places and propitiate them to obtain control over them and thus to acquire certain supernatural powers. This day is also important for the worship of Bhairav and Hanuman. Hanuman killed the demons Ahi Ravan and Mahi Ravan, the two warriors of Ravan, who had taken away Rama and Lakshman to *patal* the nether regions to sacrifice them to their goddess. On their release, Rama and Lakshman offered him oil and red lead. Since then Hanuman is worshipped on this day with oil and red lead as it is believed to free people from terrors of disease and evil spirits.

Divali

The last day of the Hindu year of Vikram era commencing from the first day of Kartik is Divali or *Dipotsavi*, the Festival of Lights. Lord Vishnu had rescued on this day goddess Lakshmi from the hold of king Bali. She moves on the earth during the Divali days when the rule of Bali is restored; she resides in happy homes where there is no quarrel, but only peace and harmony. According to another Puranic story, Lakshmi was born on Ashvin Vad *amavasya* when she sprang from the ocean churned by gods and demons and married Vishnu. People celebrate her birthday by decorating and making their homes clean and tidy. It was on this day that Rama returned to Ayodhya after his conquest over Ravan and the return of their beloved Ramachandra was celebrated by the people of Ayodhya by illumination of their houses.

Divali was celebrated all over India even before the Vikram era. Cow-worship during Divali days is considered important as cows were deemed to be the wealth of the people in olden days. At present also *gokrida* is arranged before the idol of Krishna in the open *chowks* of temples of Vaishnavite sect and *dipmalas* are lighted in the evening *Dip pujan*, worship of light is performed in the evening. *Sathia* or swastik design is made near the household deity or some other convenient place in the house, and earthen lamps are placed on it and worshipped. The significance of this worship is to leave behind all misery, indigence and unpleasantness and welcome peace, prosperity and happiness expected in the coming year.

The day is very important to merchants. They close their yearly accounts on this day. In several parts of India, even though the new year begins in Chaitra, merchants observe Divali as the last day of the commercial year for closing their accounts. *Divali-baki* or loans outstanding on Divali are not liked by merchants who try their best to settle the accounts by repaying their loans and recovering their bills during the days preceding Divali. They open new account-books with a ceremonial worship of Lakshmi and Sharda at their shops which are cleaned, decorated and illuminated for the festival. As the new account-books are worshipped during this ceremony, it is also known as *chopda* or *vahi pujan*. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the ceremony which is conducted by the family priest. All the three main goddesses are worshipped on the occasion, the ink-stand being considered a symbol of Kali, a silver coin that of Lakshmi and the account-book that of Saraswati. On the first page of the new ledgers the auspicious swastik is drawn and characters like *Om*, *Shri*, etc., are written with vermilion Figures like 1½ and words like *shubh* (auspicious) and *labh* (gain) are also painted with red ochre or vermilion on or near the door frames of shops and houses. Dry fruits, sweets, coins, etc., are offered to the goddess Lakshmi. By these acts, the goddess is propitiated to earn her blessing for good business during the ensuing year. Gifts in cash, sweets, etc., are given to relatives, servants, dependents and Brahmins. Toys and crackers are distributed among children. Greetings are exchanged. Merchants transact business of new varieties of goods and give some cash to one another to enter the accounts of sale and purchase in the new books as a token of goodwill. They also send some items of their merchandise to their permanent customers as *boni* or the auspicious first deal and enter their names in the new books.

In the evening children move in the streets from house to house with earthen *merayas* or torches filled with cotton seeds and cotton wicks lighted in the centre, wherein every house-wife pours some *ghee* or oil. The mother of a new-born child also visits the houses of her relatives with her child in new clothes and ornaments and a *meraya* of sugar-cane with dry coconut kernel fixed at the top held in her hand. Women pour *ghee* in her *meraya* and give some present in cash or kind to the new-born child, and sweets to the mother. Lamps are lighted at night not only in every household but in every nook and corner of the house setting the dark night aglow-an *amavasya* which is brighter than any *purnima*. The whole atmosphere is filled by the booms of crackers hnd fireworks. Women keep waking late into the night decorating their courtyards with *rangoli* designs. At midnight they go silently to dispose of the rubbish from the house at the crossing of roads and return without looking behind, uttering *Alash gayi ane Lakshmi avi* (misfortune has gone and fortune arrived). Lights are kept burning for the whole night.

Jains also regard Divali as the *nirvan kalyanak* or the holy anniversary of the *nirvan* of Mahavir, the 24th *tirthankar*.

New Year Day

The New Year day of the Vikram era followed in Gujarat falls on Kartik Sud 1. It is celebrated throughout the State by all sections of the public irrespective of caste or creed. Indeed, it is inseparable from and part of the Divali celebrations which extend in the New Year. As they have a busy day ahead, people get up unusually early in the morning, as early as three or four o'clock, even though they wake late into the previous night. The first thing to do is to buy salt or *sabras*, i.e., *sab* means all and *ras* means tastes, from vendors selling it in the very early hours with shouts of *saparme dahade sabras* ! or "*sabras* on the auspicious day". Salt is the essence of all tastes, as without its help, the richest of preparations cannot be properly enjoyed. It is, therefore, called *sabras* or collection of all tastes and is the first thing bought in the morning as a good omen representing the zest of life. In some places *shukan-nu-kanku* or "*kumkum* (vermilion) for good omen" is also sold. After an early bath and obeisance to the household deity, people visit temples for *darshan* and then go to pay respects to their elders and exchange new year greetings and good wishes with relatives, friends and acquaintances. Greeting cards are sent by post to relations and friends staying in other places. At every house, dishes of sweets, dry fruits, *pan* and *mukhvas* or atleast sugarcandy, *patasa* and *gur-dhana* are kept ready to be offered to the visitor, who takes a little to sweeten the mouth. Relations and friends reciprocate with a return visit on the same day, at times extending up to Labha Pancham. Sometimes in big town meetings or get-togethers are arranged in the morning so that people can meet at the same place and exchange greetings. Like *sabras* in the morning it is also a good omen to purchase new ornaments, utensils, clothes, etc.

In Vaishnava temples *annakuta* or a collection of all possible varieties of food preparations, especially from new crops where practicable, is offered to the gods and people gather there to have *darshan*. Govardhan Puja, instituted by Shri Krishna is also performed on this day in memory of the event when he saved the people of Gokul from the wrath of Indra, who flooded the area by heavy rains. He lifted the mountain Govardhan situated in Vrindavan near Gokul on his little finger and gave shelter to the people, and their cattle under it, advising them to worship the mountain instead of Indra. A cow-dung image of mount Govardhan is made in Vaishnavite temples in the centre at the time of *annakuta*, decorated with a flag on the top and leaves and flowers, and worshipped. Staunch Hindus perform this ceremony at their homes also.

In some Vaishnavite temples, the heap is made of cooked rice instead of cow-dung and decorated with fruits, vegetables, flowers and *bajri* or *jowar* bread with *ladus* or sweet-balls and a flag at the top. It symbolises Govardhan *parvat*. In the temple of Ranchhodji at Dakor more than one hundred and twenty-five maunds of rice are cooked, and heaped in the temple square

decorated as above. Earthen vessels of cold water are kept round the heap. After worshipping Ranchhodji devotees mostly of the lower castes 'loot' the heap of rice, i.e., take away from it as much *prasad* as they can. These ceremonies including *annakuta* truly symbolise the gratitude of man to the Almighty as expressed in his offering of new crop first to God on the New Year day before it is put to use in the family.

This day is also known as Bali Pratipada and religious people worship the idols of Bali and his wife Vindhyavali with that of Kuber the God of Wealth and goddess Lakshmi at their home.

In rural areas of Saurashtra the New Year day is known as *jar patola-jar* means *juhar* or greetings and *patola* means day, i.e., day of greetings. Villagers worship their cows and decorate them, painting their hoofs and horns with vermilion or turmeric and serve them with boiled grain. In the morning they go together to the house of the *patel*, or village headman or *sarpanch* to greet him. He in return serves them with tea and light refreshment. In the evening they arrange cow races at the outskirts of the village and prizes are awarded at the hands of the *patel* or *sarpanch* to the owners of the winners. Generally, metal pots of everyday use are given as prizes. Many games like *atapata*, *hu-tu-tu* or *gajagrah*-tug of war-are then played and women sing *garbas*.

Bhai Bij

Bhai Bij is a festival distinct from Divali, though following as it does the New Year day it extends the festivities for yet another day. As the name suggests, it is dedicated to the ideal love between brother and sister. In Vedas and Puranas this relationship is glorified in the story of Yama and Yami, the celestial twins, and of Shri Krishna and Krishna (Draupadi). In very ancient times, when there was no night in the world of gods, the pair of Yama and Yami was broken by the death of Yama. Yami's grief was inconsolable and even the condolences of gods failed to stop her laments. At last they created the night and Yami slept. In the next birth Yami became the river Yamuna and Yama the God of Death. They remembered their relationship in the previous birth and continued to cherish the same as brother and sister. Yama used to visit Yamuna on Kartik Sud 2 to stay with her and dine at her hands. Since then, this day is called Yama Dwitiya or Bhai Bij or brother's second. Yama promised Yamuna that a person bathing in the holy waters of Yamuna on this day would be free from all sins and would not go to hell after death. Religious people, therefore, wish to bathe in the Yamuna on this day. Lakhs of people from all parts of the country assemble at Mathura for this purpose. Many pilgrims from Gujarat in special trains, coaches and buses visit the place for bathing in the Yamuna on Bhai Bij day. Every Hindu house-wife invites her brother to her home on this day and hosts him in adoration and feasts him at her hands. The

brother in return gives her a present of her choice. Among Jains the day is considered auspicious, because it was on this day that Sunanda, the sister of Mahavir Swami, the 24th and last Jain *tirthankar*, invited her brother Nandivardhan at her place to end the period of grief after Mahavir's *nirvan* on Ashvin Vad 15 or Divali.

Labha Pancham

The bright fifth of Kartik is an auspicious day for traders to make sales and purchases. On that day they plan their trading activities for the year, start new enterprises or enter into new transactions calling the day Labha Pancham (gainful fifth).

Dev Uthi or *Prabodhini Ekadashi; Tulsi Vivah*

All *ekadashis* (elevenths) occuring twice in every month are held sacred by Hindus. Two of these, namely, *dev uthi ekadashi* coming on Kartik Sud 11 and *dev podhi ekadashi* coming on Ashadh Sud 11 are important and known as *maha ekadashis* (great elevenths). They mark the limit of the four sacred months known as *chaturmasa* (from Ashadh Sud 11 to Kartik Sud 11), during which period God Vishnu is supposed to go to sleep resting on *sheshnaga*, the great serpent in the *ksira-sagar* (milk-ocean). All auspicious ceremonial activities such as betrothal, marriage, thread-girding, etc., are suspended during this period and orthodox persons practice various fasts and austerities.

On this day Hindus, particularly Vaishnavas, celebrate every year the marriage between the image of Vishnu (God Krishna) and *tulsi*, the plant *Ocimum sanctum* or the holy basil. The image of Vishnu is richly dressed and is taken in the evening to the basil plant over which a booth of sugarcane cuttings is raised. The family priest officiates at the marriage ceremony which is conducted by the head of the family and his wife. With this marriage of Vishnu with *tulsi* begins the yearly marriage season for Hindus.

Dev-Divali

On the bright fifteenth of Kartik comes Dev-Divali (or Divali of the Gods) which is celebrated as the concluding day of Divali festivals. At some places this festival is celebrated on the Dev Uthi Ekadashi day.

Makara Sankranti

The sun takes one month in its movement through one *rashi* while the moon takes two and a quarter days. Each planet also moves in the zodiac. The movement of the sun in the orbit of a *rashi* or sign of zodiac is called *sankramana*. When the sun enters the orbit of a particular *rashi* it is called the *sankranti* of that *rashi*. Thus the day on which the sun enters the orbit of *Makara* (Capricorn) is called Makara Sankranti. This path is also

divided into two *ayanas*—zones—northern and southern. The northern zone begins when the sun enters the orbit of Makara. The sun seems to be making a northward journey and as such it is called *uttarayana*, i.e., entrance into the northern zone. The season of *shishir* begins from this day. According to Ayurveda, people should take oily diet in this season for body building, as *til* contains vitamins A, B and C. Cows are worshipped in the morning and fed with boiled *bajri* or *jowar* known as *ghughri* and *tethawa*. Women give five earthen or metal vessels filled with wheat, fruits such as *jamfal* and berries, sweetballs of *til* and gram, sugar-cane pieces, etc., to five married women, generally daughters and sisters to whom a new sari is also presented after feasting. Foodgrains are also distributed to the poor and needy. All these practices have a significant relationship to the agricultural economy. By this time the Kharif crops are ready and brought home. These are shared freely with others, as gift of grain earns great religious merit on this day. In an economy which is purely agricultural domestic animals are not forgotten and grass is freely distributed to the village cattle. Makara Sankranti thus becomes a harvest festival in the true sense of the term. Kite flying is a favourite pastime of the young and the old.

Vasant Panchami

The bright fifth of Magh is known as Vasant Panchami heralding the spring (*vasant*) season.

Maha Shivaratri

The dark fourteenth of Magh is called Maha Shivaratri (Shiva's great night) and is observed as a fast by the worshippers of Shiva. It is believed that on this day at midnight Lord Shiva had created his idol (*Linga*) to show his might to Brahma and Vishnu. Arya Samajists also celebrate this day as a holy day because Swami Dayanand, the founder of Arya Samaj got divine inspiration on this night.

Holi or *Hutashani*

Holi is a festival of romance, revelry and ribaldry, gaily celebrated as the festival of spring by people–young and old, high and low, in all walks of life.

It is an ancient festival and several stories of its religious significance are found in Hindu mythology. The one most widely current in this part of the country relates to the demon king Hiranyakashyap and his son Prahlad who was a devotee of Lord Vishnu, his deadly enemy. Prahlad having continued to worship Vishnu in spite of his father's attempts to dissuade him, Hiranyakashyap resorted to several designs to kill him, but without success. His sister Holika, who had from Lord Shiva a boon of immunity from injury by fire, came to his assistance. She took Prahlad on

her lap sitting on a heap of wood and asked her brother to set it on fire. But, when the heap began to burn, Holika burnt therein and Prahlad remained alive by the grace of God. Holi is said to be lighted every year on Phalgun Sud 15 to commemorate that event.

Bhagavat Purana narrates another account about Holi. According to the divine prophecy Kansa was destined to be killed by his sister's eighth child who was Shri Krishna. Kansa, therefore, laid designs to kill Shri Krishna, as he was unable to lay his hands upon the child at birth even by imprisoning his sister and her husband. He sent the demoness Putna to Gokul where Shri Krishna was reported to be living. The child, however, killed the demoness, and the event is since then commemorated by celebrating Holi on Phalgun Sud 15.

Whatever may be the background for the celebration of Holi, the festival is in essence and spirit a spring festival. It is held at a time when the Rabi crops like wheat, gram, cotton, *til*, etc., ripen and come to the market. Farmers are free from worries of looking after their fields and also have some cash on hand. In the countryside, women gather together and perform *ras*, *garba* and play at spraying of colours. Holi is thus a national festival for all irrespective of class or religion just like Divali. The celebration of Holi festival is spread over at least three days. The day preceding Holi, i.e., Phalgun Sud 14, is Gheraiya Chaudash, derived from *gheraiyas* or persons who indulge in spraying colours, performing folk–dances in groups, and singing folk-songs with flat drums called *daf*. At some places, a small heap of dung-cakes is lighted in the evening on Geraiya Chaudash at the place where Holi is to be lighted on the next day. This is called Kamla Holi. The day of *purnima* is celebrated as Holi, on which the Holi fire is lighted. The day after Holi is known as Dhuleti celebrated by spraying colours, throwing dirt, mud, etc., at one another. On this day even an ordinary man can spray red powder or sprinkle coloured water on those of higher status.

Several sports are traditionally played during the Holi festival. Young men compete with one another in taking out from the blazing Holi fire the coconuts offered by devotees. Other interesting competitions are coconut breaking by bare hands, stone-throwing and eating the largest quantity of dates, sometimes, along with their stones. Children play about the whole day with tomtoms and drums.

Ramanavmi

The bright ninth of Chaitra is widely celebrated as the birthday anniversary of God Rama, the seventh incarnation of Vishnu and the hero of the great epic *Ramayana*. The birth ceremony is observed at noon in the temples where the image of Rama is bathed with *panchamrit* and placed in a decorated cradle. A fast is observed on this day and

broken the next morning after offering *prasad* to the idol. Ramnavmi also happens to be the birth anniversary of Sahajanand Swami the founder of Swaminarayan Sect.

Aluna Vrata

Some women practise penance for the whole month of Chaitra by living on *aluna* (saltless) diet. Those who cannot undergo the austerity for the whole month observe only the last day. To hear the story of *okha-haran* in the month is considered meritorious.

Akhatrij

The third day of the month of Vaishakh is called Akshaya Tritiya (*Akhatrij*), the undecaying third, and is supposed to be the day on which storms of the monsoon commence and the sea becomes unfit for navigation. It marks the beginning of the agricultural year and is considered an auspicious day for beginning agricultural operations. The agriculturists worship their bullocks and agricultural implements and adore them with *kumkum* and flower. A forecast about the coming year is made from the direction of winds on this day.

Nirjala Ekadashi

The Ekadashi falling on Jyeshtha Sud 11 is so called because many a religious minded people observe complete fast on that day without taking even water. It is also known as Bhim Ekadashi because Bhim the second of the Pandavas who was voracious eater and could not observe any of the other Ekadashis fasted on this day even without taking water as advised by sage Vyas. Observance of Nirjala Ekadashi in this way is considered to earn great religious merit. Many devouts in this district observe this *ekadashi* without taking water and pass the day in worship, keeping an all night vigil.

Vat-Savitri Purnima

The festival takes its name after Vat-Savitri Vrata, the principal austerity prescribed for married women for marital bliss and long life of their husbands. The *vrata*, which consists mainly of worship of *vat* or baniyan tree, was originally performed by Savitri, a famous *sati* of Hindu mythology who suceeded in retrieving the life of her husband even from Yama, the God of Death. It is, therefore, called Vat-Savitri Vrata.

Three days are assigned to this *vrata* in the scriptures. Ladies observe fasts for the last three days of the bright half of Jyeshtha. After a cold bath at a river, lake or well, they water a banyan tree and worship it with rice, sandal paste and lamp and offer *naivedya*. They then return home, hear the story of Savitri from a Brahmin and keep awake the whole night. Next day the Brahmin is fed and given alms. This observance is performed in this part of Gujarat atleast for five consecutive years after marriage.

Jyeshtha Sud 15 is said to be the birthday of Lord Vishnu, and as such also it is celebrated as a festival since very olden times, generally in the Vaishnavite temples and Pushtimargiya *havelis*.

Rath-yatra

It is said that on this day Krishna and Balrama went from Gokul to Mathura in a chariot when the Gokulits gave them a touching send-off. In remembrance of that event, Rath-yatra or the car festival is observed in Vaishnav shrines. In the morning an offering (*naivedya*) of *jambu* fruits and sprouted gram is made to Vishnu and freely distributed as *prasad* of the deity. Devout-Hindu women observe fast on this day to be broken after worshipping the crescent moon.

Gauri Vrata or *Jaya Parvati Vrata*

Hindu maidens observe Gauri Vrata, for five days (Ashadh Sud 11 to 15) dedicated to the worship of Gauri, the consort of Lord Shiva to obtain a suitable husband in marriage. Sprouted grains called *jawaro* are worshipped daily for five days. As they have to abstain from taking salt during the *vrata*, it is also known as Aluna Vrata or Molakat.

Married women observe Jaya Parvati Vrata (from Ashadh Sud 13 to Ashadh Vad 2) also dedicated to Gauri or Parvati for securing unbroken marital bliss. During the *vrata* they worship Shiv-Parvati and eat only cereals without salt. On the last day of the *vrata*, *jagaran* or all night vigil has to be kept throughout the night.

Shravani Balev, Coconut Day

The full-moon day in the month of Shravan derives its importance from the observances of four distinct ceremonies. namely, (1) shravani (2) rakshabandhan, (3) balev and (4) coconut day.

On this day brahminic classes entitled to wear sacred thread change it after worshipping Vishnu and offering libations of water to deceased ancestors. It is called Shravani as it falls in the month of Shravan. The day is also known as the day of raksha bandhan as on that day sisters tie *raksha* or *rakhis* or *rakhadis*, (amulets of silk and gold threads) round the right wrist of brothers as a charm protecting them from evil during the ensuing year.

The day is also known as Narieli Punam or coconut day as, particularly on coastal towns, merchants and traders, to appease the rough waters of the monsoon sea, offer worship and pray for the safety of their ships and offer a coconut to please Varuna *dev* (uranus) who rules all waters. Sailing vessels are first put to sea on this day and seafaring classes worship the sea by pouring milk and offering flowers and coconuts into the sea.

Janmashtami

On the eighth of the second half of Shravan comes the festival to celebrate Krishna's birthday known as Gokulashtami or Janmashtami. Krishna is the accepted eighth incarnation of Vishnu. He killed Kansa, his maternal uncle, and helped the Pandavas in their struggle with their cousins. It is the celebration of his birth, that gives its name to the Janmashtami from *janma* birth, *ashtami* the eighth. As Shri Krishna was born at midnight the birthday celebration takes place at that time. The whole day is marked by intense activity in preparation of the midnight celebration. Devout Vaishnavas observe fast for the whole day and break it the next day with a feast. A good number of fairs are held at various places on this occasion.

Bhadarvi Amas

The *amavasya* of Shravan is considered to be the holiest among the *amavasyas*. Persons belonging to all classes in villages observe this day as a festival. Farmers decorate their bullocks and take them in a procession in the village and do not yoke them. They worship the bullocks and feed them with rich food. Fairs are held this day in many villages where people congregate in a large numbers dressed in their best.

Kevda Trij

The bright third of Bhadrapad may be kept as a *vrata* by both married and unmarried women. They fast on the day taking only *phalahar* (fruits and milk diet), worship Mahadev, listen to a recital of the story of Kevda Trij and keep vigil for the night engrossed in devotional activities.

Norta or *Navratri*

The Norta or Navratri (festival of nine nights) which begins from the first day of Ashvin is sacred to the Mother Goddess, whose ten manifestations are described in the Devi *Mahatmya* of *Markandeya Purana*. It extends over nine nights and is immediately followed by Dassera, so called from *dasa*, ten and *ahar*, day. On the first day is performed the ceremony of *ghatasthapana*, the invocation of the goddess to be present in the *ghata*, the pot. The Goddess is invited with due acts of worship to occupy her temple and is worshipped daily for nine days. Throughout the period a Brahmin priest reads *saptapadi* hymns in praise of the Goddess. An earthen vessel, pierced with numerous holes, and containing a light, called *garbo* is kept near the image of trident. A lamp, fed with *ghee* or oil is kept burning night and day before the Goddess during the entire Navratri-period of nine days. People who cannot afford to install the Goddess in their homes go and worship it in the house of their friends and receive auspicious marks and sweetmeats.

In the evening unmarried girls, carrying *garbo* go round and sing at neighbour's houses and in return beg alms for their lamps. Booths (*garbis*)

are specially erected and decorated for the festival at street lanes and bye-lanes men and women sing song and *garba-ras* in the praise of the Goddess. On the ninth day of the festival, the *havan* sacrifice is performed in the principal temple of the town and in those houses where the Goddess has been installed. A *naivedya* (food offering) consisting of a special dish made of rice, milk and sugar and other dishes prescribed by the houshold tradition are offered to the Goddess and *prasad* distributed to the worshippers and relatives.

Dassera

Dassera is the culmination of Navratri which it follows. It is also called Vijaya Dashmi or the Tenth of Victory, as it commemorates important events from *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* the two great Indian epics. It is believed that King Raghu, a forefather of Shri Rama, conquered Kuber, the treasurer of gods, and obtained wealth to satisfy a Brahmin scholar who had promised his *guru* or preceptor fourteen crores of gold coins as *guru dakshina*. Rama studied Jaya and Vijaya or the arts of archery from *rishi* Vishwamitra to fight the demons obstructing the sages in the performance of their sacrifices and destroyed them. It was also on this day that he marched from Kishkindha to conquer Ravan. It was again on this day that Arjun, the third of Pandavas, recovered the cows of King Virata stolen by Kauravas whom he defeated after retrieving the weapons from the *shami* tree where they were hidden. On this day goddess Durga killed the demon Mahishasur, after a nine-day battle. Thus Vijaya Dashmi is the day of the triumph of good over evil, of *dharma*, and righteousness over *adharma* and vice. It is a day dedicated to valour, a festival of the brave. It is considered an auspicious day to start any new work.

The greatest importance is, however, attached to the worship of *shami* (*Prospis spicigera*) tree on this day. *Shami* is taken as an auspicious tree, fulfilling one's desires and giving wealth. The *shami* wood is used for sacrificial purposes. In sacrifices, self-kindled fire should be obtained, which is kindled by friction of two sticks of *shami*. It is believed that he who worships *shami* on the bright tenth of Ashvin would be free from sins committed by his ten senses. The day is, therefore, known as *Dash-hara*.

Being a festival of special significance to Kshatriyas, it was pompously celebrated by former princely States. The Dassera *sawari* or royal procession in the former Bhavnagar State was an event of great attraction for people from miles around who used to flock to the capital to witness it. The procession with all the regal paraphernalia was presided over by the ruler riding in a gold and silver howdah placed on the decorated elephant or in a gold and silver state coach. The procession marched out of the town or city to a *shami* tree where *puja* was offered. The procession then returned to the *darbar* hall attended by officers and gentry who were distributed sugar candy at the hands

of the Maharaja. With the merger of the former States, this colourful aspect of the festival has disappeared leaving behind a mere formal and ceremonial visit by a small party to the *shami* tree for the performance of religious rites. However, the traditional sports, competitions, etc., are kept up by the people themselves who go to the outskirts of the village, where the *sarpanch* or *patel* or some other man of importance worships the *shami* tree, and gymnastics, sports, cart races, etc., are arranged as of yore. These events over, the people return home with leaves of *shami* which on this day are prized as gold. The whole day is passed in merrymaking from morning to night offering and sending sweets to relatives and friends. A large variety of sweets is put on sale at sweetmeat shops, the most favourite in Bhavnagar being *jalebi* and *fafada*. There is a proverb that *Divali sahuni, Dassera vahuni*, i. e., the festival of Divali is for all but Dassera has special significance for brides as betrothed girls and newly married brides are specially invited at the house of their in-laws for Dassera celebrations.

Manekthari Punam or *Sharad Punam*

The full-moon day of Ashvin is known as Manekthari or Sharad Purnima. That day supper is taken in open moonlight. Pounded rice and milk, after they are offered to the moon or household deity form the chief articles of supper. The moon is the nearest to the earth that night and the moonlight is peculiarly cool and refreshing. If a raindrop on this night falls into the mouth of an oyster it is believed to turn into a pearl and hence the day is called Manekthari Punam or the pearl crystallising full-moon. People enjoy the night by holding singing parties, or performing *garba* dances under the open sky.

Besides the festivals discussed above there are other minor festivals such as Gudi Padvo, Divaso, Nag Pancham, Ganesh Chauth, Rusi Panchami, etc., details about which will be found in *Fairs and Festivals*, Census of India 1961, Gujarat Vol. V, Part VII-B, by Shri R. K. Trivedi.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Agriculture is an important means of subsistence for the majority of people in the district. According to the 1961 Census, 61.49 per cent of the total working population of the district was engaged in agriculture. Most of these persons come mainly from Kanbi, Kharak, Koli, Ahir, Kathi, Rajput and other castes.

The number of persons returned as engaged in agricultural and other allied activities in 1961 was as follows.

Persons engaged in Agriculture

	Total	Males	Females
Total	**267,340**	**165,943**	**101,397**
As cultivators	203,854	130,624	73,230
As labourers	63,486	35,319	28,167

Soure :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

The taluka-wise figures of persons engaged in agriculture in the district for the same year are given in Statement IV.1 at the end of the Chapter.

As the statement indicates the total number of persons actively engaged in agriculture was 267,340 or 61·49 per cent of the total working population. Of these, 203,854 persons or 76·25 per cent were cultivators and 63,486 or 23·75 per cent were labourers. Among the cultivators 130,624 or 64 per cent were males; among the labourers only 40 per cent were males, the rest were females. The proportion of agricultural labourers was the lowest in Mahuva and the highest in Gogha. In former the percentage of agricultural labourers to the total agricultural workers was only 3·14; in the latter it was 25·27.

Land Utilisation

The utilisation of land resources forms a major item in any programme of economic planning in an economy which is predominantly agricultural. It reveals the various uses to which land is put and also indicates improved ways of exploitation of its resources for better production.

The following statement gives classification of the land area in the district for the years 1956-57, 1960-61, 1961-62 and 1962-63.

STATEMENT IV·2

Land Utilisation

(IN'00 ACRES)

1	1956-57†		1960-61†	
	Area in acres 2	Percentage of total area 3	Area in acres 4	Percentage of total area 5
Total geographical area ..	**26,062**	**100·00**	**22,721**	**100·00**
1 Area under cultivation ..	18,247	70·02	15,217	66·97
2 Area other than cultivation	7,815	29·98	7,504	33·03
(a) Cultivable waste, permanent pastures and other grazing lands, fallow lands and miscellaneous tree crops ..	4,864	18·66	4,548	20·02
(b) Others, i.e., forest, barren and uncultivable land, land put to non-agricultural use ..	2,951	11·32	2,956	13·01

1	1961-62*		1962-63*	
	Area in acres 6	Percentage of total area 7	Area in acres 8	Percentage of total area 9
Total geographical area ..	**23,103**	**100·00**	**22,892**	**100·00**
1 Area under cultivation ..	15,100	65·37	14,917	65·16
2 Area other than cultivation	8,003	34·63	7,975	34·84
(a) Cultivable waste, permanent pastures and other grazing lands, fallow lands and miscellaneous tree crops ..	4,785	20·71	4,891	21·36
(b) Others, i.e., forest, barren and uncultivable land, land put to non-agricultural use ..	3,217	13·93	3,084	13·47

NOTE:

The figures for the year 1956-57 are for the district as constituted then, and not as constituted in 1961.

Source:

† *District Census Handbook* 1961, Bhavnagar

* Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

A comparision between the previous years is not possible in view of (a) the changes in classification of land utilisation and (b) territorial changes in the district. In 1960-61, 1,521,700 acres of land of 66·97 per cent of the total geographical area of the district was under cultivation. The similar percentages for 1961-62 and 1962-63 were 65·37 and 65·16 respectively. The area that was not available for cultivation for various reasons was 750,400 acres or 33·03 per cent. The percentage increased to 34·63 in 1961-62 and 34·84 in 1962-63.

The taluka-wise classification of land in the district for 1963-64 is given in Statement IV·3 at the end of the Chapter.

In 1963-64, 67.75 per cent of the total area of the district was under cultivation. The remaining 32·25 per cent which was uncultivated area included area under forest, barren or uncultivable land, land for non-agricultural uses, fallow lands and waste lands. At taluka level, Gariadhar had the highest percentage (81·64) of area under cultivation. Only 18·36 per cent of its total area was reported as uncultivated. As against this Bhavanagar taluka had the lowest percentage (41·91) of area under cultivation and the highest (58·09 per cent) as uncultivated.

Agricultural Holdings

An economic holding is one which maintains an average cultivating family and is also sufficient enough in area to keep him and a pair of bullocks fully employed. The exact area of such an economic holding is different in different regions, and is conditioned by the nature of soil, climate, crop and price of saleable produce. The Government of Saurashtra had fixed 32 acres as the size of an economic holding for Gohilwad now called Bhavnagar district. The growing pressure on land has resulted in subdivision and fragmentation of holdings into units rendered uneconomic by (a) the system of equal inheritence of land among all the sons or members of a family on partition, and (b) alienation and sale of land for redemption of debts, in vogue prior to the implementation of land reforms.

The following statement gives details regarding the sizes of land-holdings and number of *khatedars* in each size group as on 31st March, 1961.

STATEMENT IV·4

Size of Land-holdings, 31st March, 1961

Size in acre groups	No. of holders	Percentage to total holders	Area held (in acres)	Percentage to total area held
Up to 5	12,151	16·08	40,416	2·67
Over 5 to 15	26,070	34·50	253,429	16·73
Over 15 to 25	18,005	23·83	371,274	24·51
Over 25 to 56	16,539	21·89	614,904	40·60
Over 56 to 108	2,522	3·33	180,892	11·94
Over 108	282	0·37	53,796	3·55
Total	75,569	100·00	1,514,704	100·00

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

About half of the land-holders—50·58 per cent—had holdings below 15 acres each, and the other half (49·42 per cent) had larger holdings. Holdings below 15 acres of land accounted for only 19·40 per cent of the total area covered whereas those having over 15 acres of land claimed 80·60 per cent. The largest number of the *khatedars* was found in the size group over 5 to 15 acres (34.5 per cent) while the largest area was accounted for by the size group over 25 to 56 acres (40·6 per cent). 74·41 per cent of land-holders, i.e., a majority of land-holders had uneconomic holdings as they held less than 25 acres of land each, which accounted for more than 43·91 per cent of the total occupied land in the district. The average size of land-holding for the district as a whole comes to a little more than 20 acres, as arrived at by the Agrarian Reforms Commission.

Irrigation

The average annual rainfall of Bhavnagar district is between 20" to 25". The rainfall is irregular and unevenly distributed. Crop failures owing to irregularity of monsoons are becoming a common feature. Hence the necessity of irrigation in agriculture, which alone can stabilise and facilitate the adoption of intensive cultivation and reduce the excessive dependance on the vagaries of nature.

The main source of irrigation is wells, supplemented by canals and tanks wherever available. In canals and tanks water is had mostly by gravitational flow, while in the case of wells by water lifts. *Kos* or *mots* and other water lifting devices are for the most part manually operated. One man controls the movements of the bullocks which pull up the water bag attached to ropes and another directs the supply of water to the fields. Two men and two bullocks can irrigate half an acre of land per day. Women sometimes work the *mot* or irrigate the fields. The capacity of a *mot* (*kos*) is about 30 to 35 gallons of water. 12 to 20 *mots* of water may be drawn in an hour depending on the depth of the well, which is usually 20 to 40 feet in this district.

Increasing use of oil and electric power is being made by the cultivators in the district for lifting and pumping water for irrigation purposes. These devices are proving more economic and easy to handle in the long run, though the initial capital expenditure involved in the purchase of oil engine, electric motor and pump is quite large. By these devices, the manpower, otherwise engaged in lifting water is made available for more gainful employment in other agricultural processes. Intervals of irrigation may vary from crop to crop. Paddy and sugar-cane need watering at an interval of three to four days, while wheat, carrot, onion, etc., need it at a wider interval. The usual quantity of irrigation varies from 1·5 acre-inches to 2 acre-inches (an acre-inch measures 3,450 cubic feet or 10½ tons of water approximately).

Before the formation of Saurashtra State, the following schemes of minor irrigation were initiated in the area comprising the former Bhavnagar State and Gogha mahal.

1. Ranghola Irrigation Scheme begun in 1946.

2. Valawad Irrigation Scheme—A lake was built near Valawad, a village in Sihor taluka, and completed in 1944, at a total cost of Rs. 4·96 lakhs. It was estimated to irrigate about 1,200 acres of land.

3. Ambla Irrigation Scheme—Near Ambla village in Sihor taluka, completed in 1941 at a total cost of Rs. 1·36 lakhs, it was expected to irrigate about 500 acres of land.

4. Ramdhari Irrigation Scheme—Near Ramdhari village in Sihor taluka. The water from this lake was expected to irrigate 600 acres of land. Completed in 1915, its total estimated cost was Rs. 1·41 lakhs.

5. Badi Padwa Irrigation Scheme—Near Badi Padwa village in Gogha mahal. This tank was expected to irrigate about 1,747 acres of land. It was completed in 1948 at a total cost of Rs. 9·98 lakhs.

Thus the total irrigated area by all the above schemes came to only 3,726 acres of land for the whole district. The total area thus covered by canal irrigation prior to 1947 was insignificant. The Government of Saurashtra laid special emphasis on irrigation projects broadly classified into (a) major, (b) medium and (c) minor to cope with the adverse effects of recurrent famines and scarcity and undertook a number of schemes between 1948 and 1956. Those now in operation are described below.

MAJOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES

Shetrunji Dam—Shetrunji dam is an important project of the region. The river Shetrunji, the second biggest in the Saurashtra peninsula, rises from the Chachai hill in Gir, runs the course of a hundred miles and mingles with the Gulf of Cambay near Sartanpur near Talaja. A dam has been constructed near Rajasthali about 10 km. south of Palitana. The former Palitana State had thought to utilise the water of the river which was going waste in the Gulf. However, the State could not do anything in the matter due to its limited financial resources as also due to the fact that the major part of the area to be irrigated lay outside the jurisdiction of Palitana State. After the formation of an integrated State of Saurashtra, its government made a preliminary survey regarding the irrigation scheme in the year 1951 and found that 80,000 acres could be irrigated at a cost of Rs. 4.50 crores. Therefore, in the month of October of the same year the scheme estimated to cost Rs. 4.31 crores was sanctioned by the government. The foundation stone of the project was laid at the hands of late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955.

The main dam is of gravity type and earthen dams have been constructed on either side of the main dam. The total length of the dam is 10,252 feet, breadth 224 feet and height 42 feet. The canal on the left bank weir is about 96·55 km. in length while that on the right bank 64·37 km. The feeder canals on the right and left banks respectively are 196·10 km. and 164·14 km. The catchment area of the river at dam site is 2,682 km. The maximum capacity of the reservoir is about 12,365 m.c. feet. The canal was completed round about the middle of the year 1965.

Near Talaja at a distance of about 14 miles from the project site and on the right bank of the canal an Experimental Irrigation Farm having an area of 103 acres has been established for carrying out experiments and research. Another such farm admeasuring 11½ acres is also proposed to be established at Gundi.

By 1971-72 it is expected that full utilisation of water would be made. The low lying areas near the Gulf of Cambay and on the right bank of the canal were likely to be inundated for which a drainage system was constructed in 1965. Storage of water as also the salinity of the land in this area is expected to be removed by the construction of the drainage making the land more suitable for cultivation. The entire project has been completed at an expenditure of Rs. 6·96 crores and is expected to provide irrigation to 86,000 acres of land in the district.

The Agency for International Development (AID) of the United States of America has offered and assisted in the construction of the canal by providing a loan of Rs. 2·14 crores in November, 1961, through the World Bank.

MEDIUM IRRIGATION SCHEMES

Goma—The Goma irrigation scheme included in the Third Five Year Plan, was taken up in 1965 and was expected to be completed by 1968. The scheme envisages construction of a dam on the river Goma about seven km. from Paliyad in Botad taluka at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 58·30 lakhs. It will provide irrigation facilities to 6,250 acres in Botad taluka.

Rojki—It is a medium irrigation project on the river Rojki near village Thorali about 25 km. from Mahuva. It was taken up in 1960. An earthen bund was constructed across the river to form a reservoir. Canals were thereafter constructed and completed in 1965 to provide irrigation facilities to over 3,800 acres of land in Mahuva taluka. The whole project is estimated to cost about Rs. 27 lakhs.

Krishna Sagar or Ranghola Lake—The lake named Krishna Sagar was built in 1946 by the Bhavnagar State. Construction of dam on the lake site was started in 1946 during the State regime and completed in 1952 at a total cost of Rs. 55·77 lakhs. It was planned to irrigate about 10,000 acres of land.

Other schemes of medium irrigation are :

(a) The Bhimadad Dam; completed in 1953, total cost Rs. 15·58 lakhs, irrigation potential 3,000 acres.

(b) The Malan Scheme near village Nana Khuntavada (Mahuva taluka); completed in 1957 at a total expenditure of Rs. 37·48 lakhs; irrigation capacity 5,600 acres.

(c) The Surajwadi Scheme near village Luvara in Kundla taluka; completed in 1953 at a total cost of Rs. 27·85 lakhs; irrigation capacity above 3,000 acres.

SCHEMES OF MINOR IRRIGATION

The following are the schemes of minor irrigation undertaken in Bhavnagar district.

STATEMENT IV·5

Minor Irrigation Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Taluka/ Mahal	Irrigation potential in acres	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Year of commencement	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Chiroda Nalla Irrigation Scheme	Bhavnagar	253	235,000	1963-64	The work of head work is nearly completed; work of canal is in progress
2	Utavali Irrigation Scheme	Talaja	830	333,000	1963-64	Work of head work is completed
3	Khari Irrigation Scheme	Mahuva	654	544,905	1964-65	Work of head work is in progress
4	Bhaguda Irrigation Scheme	Mahuva	1,175	936,300	1964-65	do
5	Vavdi Irrigation Scheme	Gogha	1,009	819,000	1964-65	do
6	Dharai Irrigation Scheme	Mahuva	790	367,300	1965-66	do
7	Manari Irrigation Scheme	Gogha	1,168	1,125,000	...	do

Source :

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Bhavnagar

SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY

The following statement gives information about area irrigated by sources of water supply in the district during 1960-61 to 1963-64.

STATEMENT IV.6

Area Irrigated by Sources

(AREA IN '00 ACRES)

Sources	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Government canals ..	76	104	98.5	114.5
Private canals	—	..	—	—
Tanks	14	—	—	—
Wells	1,372	1,167.2	1,021.4	1,145.4
Other sources	—	—	—	—
Total area irrigated ..	*1,462*	*1,271.2*	*1,119.9*	*1,259.9*
Area irrigated more than once ..	—	—	3.9	3.7
Total gross area irrigated ..	1,461.7	1,271.2	1,123.8	1,263.6

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

The above statement amply brings out the importance and great dependence of the agriculturists on wells as a principal source of irrigation. Next in importance come the canals managed and run by the government.

Out of the total cultivated area of over 15.21 lakh acres only 1.46 lakh acres of land constituting only 9.6 per cent were under irrigation in 1960-61. Most of this area was irrigated by wells which covered 1.37 lakh acres or 93.8 per cent of the total irrigated area in the district. Canals provide irrigation to only a small acreage of land.

Gadhada mahal had the largest area (22,535 acres) under irrigation in the district in 1960-61, followed by Botad taluka (21,402 acres). Gogha had the least area under irrigation (3,951 acres). Umrala followed by Mahuva used government canals for irrigation purposes most, 3,849 acres and 2,600 acres respectively. The maximum acreage under well irrigation was in Botad taluka followed by Gadhada, 21,402 acres and 21,131 acres respectively. Oil engines were used for irrigation in all the talukas and mahals of the district, but Gariadhar topped the list in the matter of number of oil engines used for irrigation, while Gogha employed the smallest number.

Information about sources of water supply and area irrigated in each taluka of the district for 1960-61 was as follows.

STATEMENT IV·7

Sources of Water Supply and Area Irrigated therefrom, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Government Canals		Wells				Number of oil engines	Net area irrigated by			
		Number	Mileage	Masonry	Non-masonry	Total	Tanks		Government canals	Wells	Tanks	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	District Total ..	27	86·5	18,721	22,805	41,526	46	2,716	7,607	137,167	1,404	146,178
1	Bhavnagar ..	1	1·5	1,245	1,385	2,630	23	139	..	12,843	..	12,843
2	Botad ..	..	..	1,167	1,847	3,014	12	267	..	21,402	..	21,402
3	Gadhada ..	1	21	1,210	2,303	3,513	..	439	..	21,131	1,404	22,535
4	Gariadhar ..	..	..	1,924	401	2,325	1	481	..	9,350	..	9,350
5	Gogha ..	2	5	470	1,435	1,905	1	51	312	3,639	—	3,951
6	Kundla ..	3	25	2,560	3,466	6,026	..	178	643	8,979	..	9,622
7	Mahuva ..	2	19	1,707	3,239	4,946	..	212	2,600	6,443	..	9,043
8	Palitana ..	..	..	2,966	569	3,535	9	361	—	5,523	..	5,523
9	Sihor ..	6	15	1,414	2,375	3,789	..	245	203	9,572	..	9,775
10	Talaja ..	..	..	2,056	3,941	5,997	..	142	..	12,221	..	12,221
11	Umrala ..	12	..	1,014	1,082	2,096	..	110	3,849	13,755	..	17,604
12	Vallabhipur ..	..	..	988	762	1,750	..	91	..	12,309	..	12,309

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

Area Irrigated under each Crop

The following statement gives taluka-wise information about area of (a) food crops, and (b) non-food crops, irrigated in the district during 1952-53 to 1963-64.

STATEMENT IV.8

Area under Irrigated Crops

(IN '00 ACRES)

Sl. No.	Crops	1952-53	1956-57	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Food Crops						
1	Rice ..	62	27	79	47	36	29
2	Wheat	293	571	564	442	387	357
3	*Jowar*	99	57	214	135	160	127
4	*Bajri*	21	..	2	2	13	..
5	Maize	..	1	..	0.1	3	0.9
	Total cereals	*475*	*656*	*859*	*626.1*	*599*	*513.9*
6	Gram	5	78	1	16	0.9	0.4
7	Sugar-cane	22	63	121	63	47	72
8	Chillies	N. A.	105	180	74	85	161
9	Other food crops	69	54	50	35	41	43
	Total food crops	*571*	*956*	*1,211*	*814.1*	*772.9*	*790.3*
	Non food Crops						
10	Cotton	2	17	36	105	81	198
11	Groundnut	N. A.	3	22	86	35	33
12	Tobacco	N. A.	.	..	..	0.1	..
13	Fodder crops	N. A.	322	{	258	243	242
14	Other non-food crops	152	19	{ 193	8	6	..
	Total non-food crops	*154*	*361*	*251*	*457*	*365.1*	*473*
	Total gross area under irrigated crops	**725**	**1,317**	**1,462**	**1,271**	**1,138**	**1,263**

(By rounding off the figures)
N. A. = Not available

Source :
Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

The principal food crops irrigated in the district are wheat, *jowar*, sugarcane, paddy and chillies, whereas non-food crops include cotton, fodder and groundnut.

The taluka-wise information about area of (a) food crops, and (b) non-food crops irrigated in the district in 1960-61 is given in Statements IV·9 and IV·10 at the end of the Chapter.

Soil Conservation

Water and wind are very active forces in erosion of land. Erosion by wind occurs in coastal areas generally, if there is no protective vegetation. Denudation of forest areas due to ruthless cutting and grazing also leads to soil erosion. Systematic execution of soil conservation schemes to arrest soil erosion is of vital importance for increased agricultural production. Various schemes of soil conservation and reclamation have been undertaken in the district, the chief among them being contour bunding and Bhal Reclamation Scheme.

Contour Bunding

During the Second Five Year Plan period under the scheme of soil conservation 22,128 acres were bunded at an expenditure of Rs. 608,195,

The work was mainly confined to Botad and Gadhada. In the Third Five Year Plan period the area bunded was of about 50,000 acres.

BHAL RECLAMATION SCHEME OR PILOT POLDER PROJECT

This scheme aims at reclaiming saline land in the Bhal area, a flat tract of about 250 sq. miles in Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad districts, having a population of about 15,000 persons. It is a delta region of many small rivers near the sea, with erratic rainfall. Sub-soil water is saline and the whole area has *khar* or saline land. To reclaim this land, government has sanctioned this scheme called Pilot Polder Project which was undertaken by the Government of Saurashtra in consultation with experts deputed by the Dutch Government and subsequently continued in the Third Five Year Plan. It envisages the construction of an earthen bund 25 miles long and a waste weir 10,000 feet long to prevent flooding by sea water and to preserve rain water, which would wash away the salinity of the soil, thus rendering it fit for cultivation. During the Second Five Year Plan the Pilot Polder Project was taken up with the assistance of Dutch experts at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 lakhs. The remaining stages of the scheme will be taken up after watching the results of the Pilot Project for two or three years. By the end of the Second Five Year Plan an expenditure of Rs. 4,631,255 had been incurred on this scheme which is estimated to cost Rs. 183 lakhs on completion and benefit 55,000 acres of land which will yield about Rs. 12.5 lakhs worth of wheat annually.

SOIL AND CROPS

The geographical formation of Saurashtra is of volcanic origin; hence the soils of Bhavnagar district with the exception of a few strips, are derived from trap rock. The out-crop of granite rocks is visible at certain places like Talaja indicating that granite was the original rock formation. However, the volcanic effusions and spread of lava, followed by denudation have resulted in the creation of a basaltic topography. The black cotton soils which are not very deep are susceptible to erosion in the undulating areas in the interior of the district due to rains. The soils along the coastal belt are, however, deeper and more plain but due to their lowness get inundated by the ingress of sea water.

The soil of the district can be divided into the following types.

(a) Medium black soil found in parts of Sihor, Bhavnagar, Talaja, Mahuva, Palitana and Botad talukas and Umrala and Gadhada mahals. This is the most predominent type of soil in the district and covers a major part of its area.

(b) Coastal sandy alluvial soil in Mahuva taluka.

(c) Light murram soil in elevated areas of Sihor, Bhavnagar and Palitana talukas.

(d) Clay lime soil in Gariadhar mahal.

(e) Clay alluvial soil of Bhal tract.

MAJOR AND SUBSIDIARY CROPS

Area under cultivation

The principal food crops of the district are ***bajri***, ***jowar*** and wheat, while groundnut and cotton are the principal non-food crops.

The details of various crops grown in the district showing the percentage of area of each crop during 1956-57 and 1960-61 are given below.

STATEMENT IV.11

Percentage of Area under Different Crops During 1956-57 and 1960-61

	Crop	1956-57	1960-61
1	Rice	0.23	0.51
2	Wheat	4.32	5.63
3	*Jowar*	10.85	19.09
4	*Bajri*	25.65	19.41
5	Other cereals	0.04	0.02
	Total cereals	*50.09*	*44.66*
6	*Tur*	0.02	0.01
7	Gram	1.62	0.08
8	Other pulses	1.78	1.16
	Total pulses	*3.42*	*1.25*
9	Sugar-cane	0.37	0.79
10	Fruits and vegetables (excluding potatoes)	0.51	0.73
11	Condiments and spices	0.75	1.18
12	Other food crops	0.01	...
	Total food crops	*55.15*	*48.61*
13	Groundnut	24.50	38.03
14	Sesamum	4.22	2.27
15	Castor seeds	0.01	..
16	Other oilseeds	0.11	0.5
	Total oilseeds	*28.84*	*40.35*
17	Cotton	10.91	4.53
	Total fibres	*10.91*	*4.53*
18	Tobacco	0.01	..
	Total drugs and narcotics	*0.01*	...
	Other non-food crops	*5.09*	*6.51*
	Total non-food crops	*44.85*	*51.39*
	Total area under crops	**100.00**	**100.00**

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

Food crops have gradually declined from 55.15 per cent in 1956-57 to 48.61 per cent in 1960-61 with corresponding increase in non-food crops during the same period being 6.54 per cent. i.e., from 44.85 per cent to 51.39 per cent. The major increase has been in the acreage of groundnut which has risen from 457.300 acres in 1956-57 to 587,400 acres and accounts for 38.03 per cent of the gross cropped area in 1960-61. It accounts for nearly 95 per cent of the area under oilseeds in that year. Among food crops, area under *bajri* has declined from 26.24 per cent to 19.02 per cent. *Jowar* covered 18.71 per cent and wheat 5.51 per cent of total cropped area in 1960-61. Being an irrigated crop, area under paddy (rice) was insignificant, 7,886 acres only and exceeded 1,000 acres each only in Talaja and Mahuva talukas. Pulses declined from 3.42 per cent in 1956-57 to 1.25 per cent in 1960-61. In sugar-cane cultivation Gariadhar and Palitana occupy a prominent place in the district. Cotton cultivation declined from 10.91 per cent to 4.53 per cent and was noteworthy in Botad, Gadhada and Vallabhipur.

The details of area and out-turn of crops by taluka for the year 1960-61 will be found in Statements IV.12 to IV.20 given at the end of the Chapter.

KHARIF AND RABI CROPS

The crops, food and non-food, grown in the district can be grouped under two main heads Kharif and Rabi. The Kharif or the rainfed crops are sown in June-July and harvested in October-November. The Rabi or irrigated crops are sown in September-October and harvested in February-March The main Kharif crops in the district are *jowar*, *bajri*, rice, groundnut and

cotton; wheat and gram are the important Rabi crops. *Jowar* is grown both as Rabi and Kharif crop. The acreage under Kharif and Rabi crops varies every year depending upon the rainfall. However, the Kharif crops being the principal crops always occupy a much larger area as compared to Rabi crops. For example in 1963-64, Kharif crops covered over 90 per cent of the area under total crops.

The area and out-turn of principal crops for the years 1961-62 to 1963-64 were as follows.

STATEMENT IV-21

Area and Out-turn of Principal Crops for the Years 1961-62 to 1963-64

(AREA IN ACRES)
(OUT-TURN IN TONS)

Sl. No.	Crop	1961-62 Area	1961-62 Out-turn	1962-63 Area	1962-63 Out-turn	1963-64 Area	1963-64 Out-turn
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Rice	4,743	1,359	3,577	897	2,864	821
2	Wheat	62,075	23,097	47,241	1,667	49,100	13,109
3	*Jowar* (Kharif)	262,486	8,674	39,451	6,932	301,539	7,755
4	*Jowar* (Rabi)	13,542	496	15,193	417	12,725	2,698
5	*Jowar* Total	276,028	9,170	287.134	7,349	314,264	10,453
6	*Bajri*	292,637	12,600	312.243	11,748	357,167	15,477
7	Gram	2,768	134	939	535	602	103
8	*Mug*	2,592	151	3,131	1,432	3,742	193
9	*Math*	3,123	175	3,475	N. A.	2,563	N. A.
10	*Udid*	6,172	437	0,130	384	6,668	568
11	Sugar-cane	3,339	16,170	4,731	N. A.	7,228	16,494
12	Groundnut	625,853	120,347	633,286	69,211	505,253	66,137
13	Chillies	7,431	2,230	6,494	1,998	16,093	3,989
14	Sesamum	37,002	1,577	32,342	1,167	43,379	1,756
15	Cotton	85,384	20,502	52,204	9,289	138,215	N. A.

N.A. = Not available

Source :
Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

The average yield per acre of the principal crops in the district during the decade 1954-55 to 1963-64 has been recorded as follows.

STATEMENT IV-22

Yield per Acre (in lbs.) of Principal Crops for the Last Ten Years

Sl. No.	Crop	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Rice	672	458	693	1,042	1,042	922	567	747	632	910
2	*Jowar*	102	70	289	181	187	86	96	169	103	284
3	*Bajri*	111	86	865	283	439	235	327	436	394	579
4	Wheat	754	749	764	584	862	675	490	1,010	739	853
5	Gram	247	145	288	256	512	260	172	240	560	420
6	Sugar-cane	5,172	3,699	4,577	4,432	4,432	4,413	5,012	5,018	4,480	5,614
7	Chillies	..	—	1,209	377	643	623	585	657	592	598
8	Ground-nut	486	330	625	429	745	422	500	516	279	601
9	Sesa-mum	108	106	114	98	98	99	89	97	87	91
10	Cotton	97	99	55	74	86	39	137	130	64	139

Source :
Statistics of Area, production and yield per acre of principal crops in Gujarat State (1965), Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

MODE OF CULTIVATION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS

CEREALS

Bajri—*Bajri* (Spiked millet) is the most important cereal in the district occupying the largest area under food crops. It is chiefly grown on medium black soils though it can be grown on any type of soil found in the district. Kundla and Mahuva are the areas where this cereal is principally grown. It occupied 299,824 acres of land or nearly 44 per cent of the land under cereals in 1960-61. The percentage increased to 49 in 1963-64.

Preparatory tillage of the field is done in April or May. Sowing usually starts after the first good rainfall in the last week of June or in the beginning of July, and is done by local *dantal* with a spacing of 22 to 25 cm. between the rows. The local variety is predominently sown, though 28-15-1 and 28-15-2 varieties have recently been introduced. After sowing, the seed is covered by a plank. The crop is generally not manured or watered. The quantity of seed required for sowing is usually 3 to 4 kg. per acre. Two interculturings are done at an interval of one month after sowing. Timely rainfall in August favours the growth of the crop and yields a good harvest. Flowering and grain formation generally start in early September and harvesting starts in the second week of October. The harvested crop is kept lying in the field for a few days. Heads of grain are then removed and carted to the threshing floor where the crop is threshed under bullock's feet. The yield is usually 150 to 250 kg. per acre. Cultivators usually keep a major part of the produce for their own use and for seed purposes and sell the remainder in open market.

Jowar—*Jowar* (Indian millet) is another important cereal crop grown all over the district in all types of soils and climatic conditions. It is mainly a Kharif crop though it is grown also as a Rabi crop. It covered 294,904 acres of land, i.e., nearly 43 per cent of the total area under cereals in 1960-61. In 1963-64 the percentage remained almost the same.

The crop is grown for a dual purpose, i.e., for grain and fodder, the more important being grain. The field is prepared during April or May and sowing operations start just after the first rains in June or July, if it is grown in Kharif season. The quantity of seed required for sowing is about 5 kg. per acre when grown alone. The distance between the rows is generally about 50 cm. Usually one interculturing after a month of the sowing is required. Flowering and grain formation start in the beginning of September and harvesting takes place generally from the second week of October and may sometimes continue till November. The crop is cut by sickle and exposed to sun for about three days. The earheads are then cut and carried to the threshing floor. Threshing starts in November and continues till December end. The yield of grain varies from 100 to 150 kg. and that of fodder from 500 to 700 kg. per acre.

Wheat—Wheat is a Rabi crop grown in all the talukas and mahals but more extensively in Vallabhipur. It is both an irrigated as well as a dry crop. Shallow lands are not particularly suited to this crop. Wheat was cultivated in 86,950 acres of land out of which 56,393 acres or 64.86 per cent were irrigated in 1960-61.

Land is prepared for the crop in July or August. Farm manure at the rate of about 25 cartloads per acre is then spread in the fields. Sowing starts usually after Dassera in the third week of October and is continued till the first week of November. Sowing is done by local *dantal* of about 22 cm. in size. The varieties of wheat that are chiefly grown are local red *katha* or *khapli* and the quantity of seed required for sowing is usually 40 kg. per acre. Generally no interculturings are given when the crop is an irrigated one. The irrigated crop is given top dressing at the rate of about 15 kg. of nitrogen (in the form of manure mixture) per acre after one month of sowing in one dose. Ears come in January. Harvesting starts in February and continues till March. The harvested crop is then dried, carried to the threshing yard and pounded under the feet of bullocks. The yield varies from 300 to 500 kg. per acre.

Paddy—Paddy is not grown very much in this district as it requires good irrigation facilities and a fairly deep soil. Talaja and Mahuva were the only two talukas where the land under paddy exceeded 1,000 acres.

The field is prepared after Rabi crops are harvested and preparatory tilling is done in April and May. Sowing starts usually in July with *dantal* or local seed-drill mostly at 45 cm. distance. The quantity of seed required for sowing is about 12 kg. per acre. Irrigation is resorted to usually at an interval of 10 days. Flowering begins in early September and grain formation starts at the end of the month. Harvesting starts in mid-October and continues till mid-November.

Pulses

Udid (Black gram) popularly termed *adad* is an important pulse crop occupying the largest area among all pulses in the district. Like *mug* and *math* it is not grown alone but as a mixed crop with *bajri*, *jowar*, cotton and some times *til*. Mahuva taluka alone accounted for more than half of the total acreage under this crop in 1960-61. Its stalks and leaves form good fodder for cattle.

Mug or green gram covered an area of 3,421 acres in 1960-61. It is grown as a Kharif crop and generally sown along with *bajri* and *jowar*. It is not grown as a main crop because heavy rains in September disturb its growth. It is usually harvested after the principal crop is taken from the field. The yield is ordinarily about 35 kg. per acre. Its leaves and stalks are much relished by cattle. *Mug*, like other pulses, can be eaten green as a vegetable and when ripened consumed whole or split. The cultivation of *mug* was concentrated in Kundla, Sihor and Mahuva talukas.

Chana (Gram) is grown all over the district but Umrala and Gariadhar were the major gram growing areas. It was cultivated in 1,257 acres out of which 181 acres were irrigated. Good rain in the month of September or October provides an incentive to the farmers to sow this crop. It is usually sown after *bajri* or groundnut in dry lands and after paddy in irrigated lands. Gram is sometimes sown in the interspace of groundnut when it is standing or after paddy in irrigated lands. It is sown in October and harvested in February.

Math (Kidney bean) was grown in 3,850 acres of land in the year 1960-61. It is a Kharif crop and is grown along with *jowar* in light soils. Botad taluka was the main *math* growing area covering over 56 per cent of the total area in the district under this crop. It is sown about 45 cm. apart. The quantity of seed required is about 4 kg. per acre and the yield is about 90 to 100 kg. per acre when grown alone.

Kalthi (Horse gram) covered 3,946 acres of land in 1960-61. It was grown in all the talukas of the district except Bhavnagar, Gariadhar and Umrala. It does not require much water or manure and is used as a preparatory crop in virgin lands. About 4 kg. of seed per acre are required for sowing. The land is drilled about 45 cm. apart early in July. It is harvested in September-October. The yield is about 75 to 100 kg. per acre. The green crop is chiefly used as cattle feed. *Kalthi* is considered a nutritious food and is used in place of vegetable chiefly by the poor.

Oilseeds—The main oilseeds grown in the district are groundnut, sesamum and castor seeds. Of these, groundnut is the most important.

Groundnut—Mandvi or *shing* (Groundnut), an important cash crop in the district, was grown on 587,422 acres of land in 1960-61. Kundla and Mahuva were the chief groundnut producing talukas in the district. Two varieties of groundnut are grown in the district, one is the erect or bunch type locally called *mathadi* or *gini mandvi* or *ubhadi*; and the other is the spreading variety called *veldi* or *deshi* or *jadi mandvi*. *Veldi* type gives a better yield of fodder but is harvested later than *ubhadi* by about a fortnight. Farm yard manure, superphosphate and fish meal are considered good manures for this crop. Groundnut crop being a cash crop gets the best cultivation and treatment. There would be many fields where this crop is grown consecutively for over a number of years in the same furrow. The quantity of seed required is usually 25 to 35 kg. per acre. Groundnut is a Kharif crop and is sown in the beginning of July and harvested in September-October. Harvesting is done mostly by harrows but in the case of the *veldi* type a plough is sometimes used. The harvested crop is collected, heaped and threshed with rakes. The pods, stalk and leaves are then separated by winnowing. The broken leaves locally known as *palo* are considered a very useful fodder. The groundnut crop on an average yields about 200 to 300 kg. of pods and 400 to 500 kg. of fodder per acre. The seeds, by extraction,

yield edible oil, which has multiple uses. The oil cake is given to cattle and quite a substantial part is used as manure after mixing it with ammonium sulphate and superphosphate. The attack of *tikkā* disease, sometimes becomes a serious danger to this important cash crop.

Til or *tal* (Sesamum) covered a total of 35,073 acres of land in 1960-61. Two varieties of *til* are grown in this district—white or yellowish and black, the former being grown on a larger scale. *Til* is generally grown to increase the fertility of soil after cultivation of soil-exhausting crops like *jowar*, etc. No manuring for this crop is generally required as the crop itself is considered to be fertility recuperating. About 500 to 700 grams of til per acre are required for sowing. A distance of about 45 cm. is kept between the rows. The plants after they grow yellow and cast off leaves are picked and stocked in the threshing yard. After they become dry they are spread on a cloth, winnowed and cleaned. The Kharif crop is ready for harvest in September-October and Rabi crop in January. *Til* oil is used in cooking and is considered to be very nutritious, and its cake a nourishing food for cattle.

Sugar-cane—Gariadhar and Palitana are the main areas where sugar-cane is grown. These two talukas taken together had between them 6,114 acres or 50.3 per cent of the total land under this crop in the district in 1960-61.

Sugar-cane is a twelve month crop and requires an ample supply of water. It is planted usually in the month of January or February. About 15,000 to 20,000 sugar-cane sets per acre are required for sowing. Large quantity of farm yard manure of about 70 to 80 kg. per acre is applied. The crop requires intensive irrigation. Harvesting starts from January of the next year and continues till March. Crushing, which starts immediately thereafter, is done with iron cane crushers and in many cases by crushers run by power and lasts for 6 to 10 days.

Drugs and Narcotics

The cultivation of drugs and narcotics is negligible in the district.

Marcha (Chillies) constitutes an important crop under spices. It covered in 1960-61, 18,058 acres of land in the district. Its cultivation has been gradually increasing every year. Chillies are grown throughout the district but more extensively in Gadhada and Botad.

The seedlings are first raised in a nursery and are transplanted in July or August after about 45 days. The land is ploughed three or four times and well manured. Fruits are formed after about three months when they are plucked and dried in the threshing yard. This is usually done in January or February. The yield is about 500 to 750 kg. per acre. Green chillies are in great demand in the preparation of vegetables and pickles. The variety generally liked by people in the district is the short, thick and less pungent type with scarlet colour. Mites and thrips damage this crop considerably.

Cotton—Cotton is an important cash crop grown all over the district but more extensively in Botad taluka, Gadhada and Vallabhipur mahals. Out of a total area of 69,985 acres under cotton in 1960-61 these three taluka and mahals jointly accounted for 43,206 acres, i.e.. over 61 per cent. Area under irrigation was 3,600 acres or about 5 per cent. The soil for cotton is well worked with a plough. About 20 to 25 cartloads of farmyard manure per acre are required for manuring. Sowing starts in July with a spacing of 45 to 90 cm. The crop usually begins to flower by the end of November and picking of cotton seeds starts in February and lasts till April. The average yield of cotton in this area varies between 200 and 250 kg. of cotton seed per acre, though the irrigated Devirai cotton yields a better harvest.

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits occupied 4,445 acres of land in 1960-61 out of which 2,120 acres were under mango cultivation. Mahuva which has regular orchards alone had 930 acres of land under mango in the year 1960-61. The important fruit crops of the district at present are pomegranates, guavas, mangoes, *chikoo* and bananas. Pomegranates and guavas are extensively grown near Bhavnagar and Gogha and are exported even outside the district. The Jamadar mangoes grown in Mahuva are akin to Alphonso and are very delicious. Mahuva also produces the largest quantity of bananas in the whole district. Efforts are also being made to grow fruits like coconut, *papaya*, guava, lemon, custasd, etc., on a larger scale. The area under vegetables was 6,690 acres of which Talaja alone accounted for 2.516 acres, i.e., about 37 per cent of the total in 1960-61.

Fodder

Fodder crops covered a total of 100,519 acres of land in the district in 1960-61. Grass, the principal fodder, was grown over about 60,000 acres.

The calendar of agricultural operations for important crops in the district is given in the following statement.

Crop Calendar

Crops	Sowing period	Harvesting time
Bajri	June-July	October-November
Jowar (Rabi)	October	February-March
Jowar (Kharif)	June	September-October
Rice	June-July	November-December
Wheat	October-November	February-March
Maize (Rabi)	September-October	February-March
Maize (Summer)	March	May-June
Gram	September-October	January-February

Crops		Sowing period	Harvesting time
Mug, Math, Adad	..	June-July	September-October
Groundnut ..	..	June-July	October-November
Sugar-cane ..	..	January-February-March	December to February
Cotton ...	..	June-July	February-March
Garlic, *Methi* ..	..	October-November	February-March
Onions ..	..	November-December	March-April
Sesamum ..	..	June-July	September-October

Source : District Statistical Abstract of Bhavnagar

Crop Prospects

The soil of the district, except in the Bhal, where it is highly impregnated with saline water, is almost everywhere black. The salty soil of Bhal produces without irrigation a fine variety of wheat known as *katha*. The main crops of the district are *jowar*, *bajri*, wheat, groundnut and cotton. Rainfall distribution is uneven and varies from taluka to taluka. About 67 per cent of the area of the district is under cultivation and there is little scope for increasing it. Increased food production, therefore, can only be achieved through intensive and better cultivation which can be done by improved irrigational facilities, more intensive use of fertilisers, supply of improved seeds, and schemes of land reclamation and development. In the matter of cultivation of crops under the modern economy, there has been of late a greater emphasis on the cultivation of cash crops which account for more than half of the total cultivated area in the district. Groundnut and cotton are important commercial crops, whereas sugar-cane cultivation is receiving greater attention than before.

Agricultural Implements

The agricultural implements used in the district are mostly of the traditional type as mechanisation has not made any headway yet in this district as elsewhere though a good beginning in this direction has already been made.

The main implements used by the agriculturists in this district include plough used for ploughing or digging the land, harrow (*rapti*) for breaking the clods and levelling the soil, seed-drill (*dantal*) for sowing the seeds, hoe (*beli*) for interculturing of crops and sickle (*datardi*) for harvesting the crops. Other miscellaneous implements in use are *kodali* (pick-axe), *kuhadi* (axe), *pavda* (spade), *kharpi* (scraper), *khampali* (wooden rake), *kosh* (share), etc. A detailed description of these and other implements is given in the Rajkot District Gazetteer.

The following statement gives taluka-wise figures of agricultural machinery and implements used in the district according to the Livestock Census of 1961.

STATEMENT IV-23

Agricultural Implements (Livestock Census, 1961)

Sl. No. 1	Taluka/Mahal 2	Ploughs		Carts 5	Sugar-cane crushers		Oil engines with pumps for irrigation 8	Electric pumps for irrigation purpose 9	Tractors		Ghanis	
		Wooden 3	Iron 4		Worked by power 6	Worked by bullocks 7			Government 10	Private 11	Five seers and above 12	Less than five seers 13
	District Total	50,548	21,187	40,323	168	449	2,998	249	12	43	456	99
1	Botad	4,468	373	3,274	4	1	542	50	...	2	33	6
2	Mahuva	6,126	4,910	6,083	6	27	161	18	6	2	52	29
3	Gogha	3,496	1,223	1,981	15	124	124	46	..	5	7	6
4	Umrala	2,341	677	1,796	4	25	81	..	...	2	9	3
5	Gariadhar	3,505	1,150	3,127	61	59	483	17	3	3	21	7
6	Vallabhipur	2,423	425	2,165	—	6	73	..	..	1	1	2
7	Sihor	3,371	1,480	2,743	4	31	237	11	..	3	130	4
8	Kundla	6,842	4,610	6,193	22	26	187	62	1	6	88	1
9	Gadhada	5,075	749	3,602	4	32	439	11	..	9	34	7
10	Palitana	3,787	1,464	2,731	29	61	361	8	2	5	15	6
11	Bhavnagar	2,410	779	2,366	1	2	181	16	—	2	16	3
12	Talaja	6,695	3,097	4,242	18	55	129	10	..	3	50	25

Source :

District Statistical Abstract, Bhavnagar, 1960-61

The comparative figures for agricultural machinery and implements for years 1951, 1956 and 1961 are given below.

STATEMENT IV.24

Agricultural Implements 1951, 1956 and 1961

	1951	1956	1961
Ploughs	28,440	59,107	71,685
(a) Wooden	27,137	47,450	50,548
(b) Iron	1,303	11,637	21,137
Carts	16,621	34,659	40,323
Sugar-cane crushers	80	421	617
(a) Power	16	129	168
(b) Bullocks	64	292	449
Oil Engines	292	678	2,998
Electric pumps	7	56	249
Tractors	1	26	55
Ghanis—more than five seers	198	481	456
Ghanis—less than five seers	85	42	99
Persian wheels or *rahats*	N. A.	N. A.	563

N. A.=Not available

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

The numbers of agricultural tools and implements show a remarkable increase during the decade 1951-61. Ploughs have more than doubled. The increase in wooden ploughs during the decade was 86·27 per cent while the iron ploughs show a striking increase, more than fifteen fold, from 1,303 in 1951 to 21,137 in 1961. Carts rose from 16,621 in 1951 to 40,323 in 1961, an increase of 142.60 per cent, while sugar-cane crushers numbering 80 in 1951 increased to 617 in 1961. The growing use of oil engines from 292 to 2,998 and increase in the number of tractors from 1 to 55 in 1961 show the gradual mechanisation of farming in the district. To encourage the use of improved implements, subsidy to the extent of Rs. 50 or 50 per cent of the cost of the implement, whichever is less, is granted to a cultivator. The co-operative societies and panchayats are also eligible for the benefit under the scheme, but in their case the rate of subsidy is limited to Rs. 25 or 25 per cent of the cost of the implement, whichever is less. The number of improved implements thus distributed during 1961-62 and 1962-63 was as follows.

Improved Implements

	1961-62	1962-63
Iron ploughs	124	316
Iron harrows	17	31
Iron hoes	11	4
Chaff cutters	2	26
Tractors	33	29

Source :

District Agriculture Officer, Bhavnagar

SEED SUPPLY

It has been the usual practice with most of the farmers to keep a reserve stock of the farm produce and use it as seed for sowing in the next season. These cultivators keep selected earheads from healthy and vigorous plants in their fields and preserve them for seed. Others obtain them from co-operative societies which supply improved varieties of seeds recommended by the government. A few of the cultivators obtain their requirements from the well-to-do cultivators or from local merchants either on cash payment or on barter system. The seed multiplication farm and plantation run by the government at Mahuva supply bulk of the grafts and seedlings to cultivators. The Agricultural Research Station at Umrala carries on research and experimental trials to evolve better yielding varieties of seeds suitable to different tracts. The improved seeds evolved at the Agricultural Research Station are first tried in the fields of a few selected progressive cultivators and their yield, suitability to the climate and soil conditions, etc., are studied. If found satisfactory, they are given to other progressive cultivators. The improved seed of groundnut (A. H. 32) was introduced in the district during the First Five Year Plan period. Other varieties developed for groundnut were A. K. 12.24 and Punjab 1 AH. 334 which were also distributed to the cultivators through co-operative societies and private dealers. In case of cotton, *pratap* cotton was introduced in 1953-54 as it was found more suitable than the local variety called *mathio*. CJ 73 *sanjay* was introduced later in 1959-60 as it was found superior to *pratap* cotton.

The following statement shows the quantity of improved seeds supplied to the cultivators every year between 1956-57 and 1961-62.

STATEMENT IV-25

Improved Seeds Supplied by Government

(IN BENGALI MAUNDS)

Year	*Jowar*	Groundnut	Cotton	Wheat	*Bajri*
1956-57	—	2,602	11,383	6,352	—
1957-58	—	11,580	8,331	17,856	—
1958-59	—	75,236	15,988	36,844	—
1959-60	—	117,926	1,850	41,824	489
1960-61	520	97,220	3,480	28,000	1,035
1961-62	330	115,328	750	16,995	1,070

Source;
District Agriculture Officer, Bhavnagar

Rotation of Crops

Jowar, *bajri* and groundnut are the main crops of the district which are usually cropped in rotation. *Jowar* is followed either by *bajri* or cotton which again is followed by groundnut. In some areas wheat and groundnut are grown on the same field over and over again. The following rotation is usually practised: *Jowar-bajri*-groundnut; *jowar*-cotton-*bajri*; sugar-cane-cotton-*bajri*; groundnut-groundnut; wheat-wheat.

MANURES

Fields are usually manured with cow-dung, dung of sheep and goats, farm refuge and stable litter, besides manure mixture and fertilisers which are in increasing demand. Most of the cultivators have their own manure pits either near their homes or in the fields in which dung and household waste are collected. The waste thus collected is allowed to decompose and decay for a couple of months after which it becomes ready for manurial purposes. Municipalities are having programmes for preparing compost out of town refuge. The use of green manure is not yet popular and very few farmers have taken to it. Mostly sunhemp seeds are used for the purpose.

FERTILISERS

Cultivators have now realised the importance of the use of chemical fertilisers, due to the extensive propaganda carried by the Agriculture Department, and the great advantage accruing by their use. The agricultural staff in the district arranges trial plots for different fertilisers with different crops and actual results are demonstrated to cultivators. Fertilisers in common use by farmers are superphosphate, ammonium sulphate, nitrate of potash and groundnut cake both in pure as well as mixture forms. For *jowar*, *bajri*, paddy, wheat and other millets, fertilisers are applied in one or two doses. The second dose, if necessary, is usually applied when the crop is about 1 to 1½ months old. In case of cotton crops, the first dose is applied at the time of sowing and the second and the third at an interval of one month each.

Among the fertilisers, nitrogenous fertilisers being a controlled commodity are sold and distributed only through co-operatives. But superphosphate, manure mixtures and potassic fertilisers are decontrolled and sold through private parties. Sulphates and manure mixtures are being used increasingly in the district.

The quantity of fertilisers sold to the cultivators was as follows.

(IN TONS)

Year	Ammonium Sulphate	Ammonium Nitrate	Urea	Sulphate	Manure mixture
1961-62	775	160	14	4,398	578
1962-63	900	51	80	7,938	1,200

Source : District Agriculture Officer, Bhavnagar

Compost

Composting has failed to be popular in spite of best efforts. Against the target of 31,160 tons only 6,940 tons of compost was prepared at 13 centres in the district in 1964-65. The year-wise information about preparation of compost for the district from the centres from which information has been received is as follows.

Year	Production in tons
1961-62	8,070
1962-63	9,554
1963-64	8,102
1964-65	6,940

Source :

District Agriculture Officer, Bhavnagar

AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES

Many agencies neutralise the good effects of favourable crop production. They are (a) natural forces, (b) inroads by birds and animals, (c) pests and (d) diseases. Crop damages caused by natural calamities like floods, storms and severe droughts are occasional. Stray cattle that cause damage can be prevented by proper fencing. But pests and di eases are responsible for an appreciable loss of agricultural produce which must be controlled to relieve the acute shortage of food in the country.

PESTS

Systematic attempts at pest control and crop protection were wanting in pre-Independence days. The Government of Saurashtra started in 1950 a scheme of Crop Protection Service and a small staff was appointed for the purpose. In the beginning insecticides and fungicides were distributed free of charge and departmental personnel were sent to carry out the operations. The scheme had a good response from the cultivators. In 1956, another scheme was started under which plant protection appliances were distributed at half the cost to gram panchayats, subsidised farms, co-operative farming societies and better farming societies. Both these schemes are still continued.

The pests most commonly found in cereals, cotton, oil seeds, fruits and vegetables are described below.

CEREALS

Kansia, the blister bettle (*zonabris pustulata*) is about one inch long and half an inch thick, black in colour with yellowish brown strips across the wings. These insects attack *bajri* crop during Kharif season, eat away the pollen and petals of the flowers and retard the growth of grains. Cultivators try to trap them by means of hand nets and then destroy them. This does not seem to have proved very effective so far. The use of 5 per cent benzene hexachloride dust is found to be effective against this pest.

Khapedi, the surface grasshoppers (*chrotogonus spp.*) are small hoppers, medium black in colour, with various spots on a rough body surface. They attack crops like *bajri*, *jowar*, maize, etc., during the primary stage of their growth. The attack is somtimes so severe that the entire crop is endangered as a result of which re-sowing becomes necessary. These pests are active during the period July to November. As a preventive measure, cultivators sometimes plough and harrow the field immediatley after harvesting to destroy the eggs of the pests that are laid in the soil. Benzene hexachloride has proved to be effective against the spread of this pest.

Gabh marani eyal, the stem borers (*chilo zonellus*) is most commonly found in *jowar* fields and sometimes in wheat, maize and paddy also. Caterpillars which are found only inside the affected stems of young plants bore inside the stem and thus cause drying of the central shoots. The pest, being an internal feeder, is very difficult to control. The usual practice followed is to uproot the infected plants along with the pests and destroy them. To save future crops from infestation cultivators collect the stubbles after harvest and burn them to destroy the hibernating larvae.

Mashi or molo, the aphids (*aphis maidis F.*) is a widespread pest of different species affecting many crops in the district in different seasons. Some species are more common in Kharif season and attack *jowar*, cotton, maize, and groundnut, while others which are found in Rabi season affect cabbage, cauliflower and lucerne. This soft bodied insect sucks the sap of the leaf by mouth. The infection is generally more on the lower surface than on the upper one. The aphids are controlled by spraying resin solution, tobacco decoction or nicotine sulphate or pyrathrum extract or by dusting benzene hexachloride.

COTTON

Kapasni gulabi eyal, the pink boll worm (*platyedra gossypiella, S.*) feeds inside the cotton bolls and makes them drop down. It is more destructive to Indo-American varieties of cotton than to the indigenous one. As the caterpillars enter the bolls, their entry holes are closed and it is very difficult to spot out the affected bolls until they decay and fall to the ground. The pest does not attack the shoots. As a preventive measure a mixture of D. D. T. and sulphur is sprayed during early stages of infection.

Kapasni tapka wali eyal, the spotted boll worm (*earias fabia, stoll*) is a widespread pest of cotton found in this district. The caterpillars mainly damage the shoots and bolls of cotton and stain the lint with the result that bolls fall prematurely. The pest being an internal feeder is difficult to control. However, such preventive measures as the removal of cotton stalks after harvest, destruction of early fallen bolls with the larvae inside and heat treatment for cotton seed for the control of spotted boll worms are usually taken.

PULSES

Popta kotarnar eyal, the gram pod borer (*heliothis obsoleta. F.*) is particularly harmful to pulses, especially the gram. The caterpillars feed on tender foliage and young pods, make holes inside the pods and eat the developing seeds by inserting the anterior half portion of their body inside the pods. During the early stage of infection the pests are hand picked and destroyed. Spraying with 50 per cent D.D.T. is also helpful.

OILSEEDS

Erandi ni charpagi eyal, the castor semilooper (*achoea janata L.*) is a minor pest and attacks occasionally the castor plants. It feeds on the leaves of the plants from the lower side only, leaving out the veins. The pest can be controlled by dusting benzene hexachloride.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Lila chusia, the jassids (*empoasca devastans. D.*) generally attack the plants of vegetables such as brinjal, *bhinda*, etc. During the primary stage of the attack the margin of the leaves turns yellow and the continued sucking of cell-sap leads to etiolation of the leaves and subsequent drying up, finally resulting in a stunted growth of the plant. A mixture of sulphur and D.D.T or 5 per cent benzene hexachloride is sprayed to control the pest.

Thrips, *anaphothrips* (*scirtothrips dorsalis, H.*) are common pests in vegetable crops such as onion, chillies and sometimes cabbages. This tiny insect sucks the sap of the leaves and stems resulting in a curling of the leaves and the stunted growth of the plant. This symptom is most common in case of chillies. A good supply of manure and fertilisers stimulates the growth of the plant and ultimately helps to shake off the pest. The pest can also be controlled by spraying D.D.T., benzene hexachloride or nicotine sulphate or a mixture of D.D.T. and sulphur.

Fal ane toch ni eyal, the brinjal shoot and fruit borer (*Leucinodes arbonalis. S.*) is one of the most common pests of brinjal doing considerable damage to the standing crops. The caterpillars bore into the stem and eat the internal tissues thus causing the plants to wither. It is believed that continuous growing of brinjal leads to more and more infestation and should, therefore, be avoided. It has been found that brinjals with long narrow fruits are less susceptible to the attack. A simple method of its control is the removal and destruction of the affected shoots and fruits along with the caterpillars.

Ambano madh, the mango stem borer (*batocera rubra. L.*) is a common pest in this district. It bores and tunnels through the stem and branches of the tree as a result of which the affected branches start drying up and exude from the bored holes. In severe cases of infection by the pest the whole

cultivation is sometimes threatened with destruction. A simple method of controlling the pest is to inject a solution containing two parts of carbon disulphide with one part of chloroform and creosote.

Madhio, the mango hopper (*Indiocerus, clypealis L.*) is a serious pest throughout the district. It does considerable damage to the mango crop. The nymphs and adults suck the young leaves and flowers as a result of which the withering of the crop takes place. The pest can be controlled by dusting 5 per cent D. D. T. and sulphur dust mixed in the proportion of 1:1 or 1:2.

DISEASES

The standing crops suffer from a number of diseases, some of which are very serious at times. The common plant diseases prevalent in the district are *jowarno angario* and *bhuri* described below.

Jowarno angario, the jowar smut (*sphacelotheca sorghi*) is a major plant disease of *jowar* in the district. Its symptoms are not visible till the formation of ear heads. The grain seeds in the ear heads are either partially or completely decayed and destroyed because of the disease. The disease can be controlled by sulphur treatment.

Bhuri, the powdery mildew of mango (*odium mangiferae*), affects the blossoms of mango trees. Occurring simultaneously with hoppers, it causes severe blighting of blossoms during the months of January and February. The disease is controlled by application of fine sulphur dust to the blossoms at intervals of a fortnight. This measure is widely practised by mango growers all over the district.

A particular type of virus disease of plants is many a time found to affect the *papaya* crop. The disease is highly infectious and is transmitted by aphids. The damage done by it is sometimes so grave that it destroys more than 75 per cent of the entire crop.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

There is a District Agriculture Officer in charge of the Agriculture Department of the district. The department organises (a) the work of agricultural demonstration centres (b) supervises crop-cutting experiments and conducts trials of improved seeds and fertilisers, (c) supervises the Five Year Plan Schemes relating to its department, and (d) carries out grow more food campaign. In 1962, 25 co-operative societies collaborated with the department in the work of distribution of improved seeds, fertilisers and manure mixtures, insecticides and pesticides. There are three Government Agricultural Research Stations in the district. One station located at Mahuva has been started for coconut cultivation and research. The second station at Umrala undertakes agronomic experiments on various crops. The third at Vallabhipur conducts experiments on different crops in dry conditions.

It imparts knowledge to the cultivators about the results of such experiments. There are eleven seed multiplication farms for multiplication of improved strains of seed produced by research farms in the district under the control of this office. The scheme of distribution of improved strains of cotton is supervised by the Cotton Superintendent. Schemes for providing mechanical aid to cultivation are also being undertaken.

State Assistance to Agriculture

Agricultural loans to help the ryots improve their lands are advanced in this region for a long time. The Saurashtra Government used to grant *tagavi* loans to the agriculturists under the two well-known Acts, viz., the Land Improvement Act, 1883, and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884. The former was concerned broadly with long term finance and the latter with short term accommodation. The Collector, as a matter of procedure, was given certain amounts, form time to time, to grant such loans. After 1956 the work of providing long term finance to the agriculturists was transferred to the Saurashtra Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank. After the formation of the Gujarat State from 1st May, 1960 the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank redesignated as Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank took over the work of financing the agriculturists in the State.

The following statement shows the year-wise details from 1960-61 to 1962-63 regarding the financial assistance given by this Bank to the agriculturists of the district.

STATEMENT IV.26

Government Finance for Agriculture

	Particulars	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63
1	Applications pending at the beginning of the year	1,030	750	283
2	Amount involved in (1) above (Rs.) .. .	3,605,481	2,647,821	1,191,075
3	Number of applications received during the year	1,676	1,007	3,485
4	Total amount applied for by these applications (Rs.)	6,345,000	3,679,000	9,753,200
5	Number of applications sanctioned	1,701	1.063	3,057
6	Total amount asked for in (5) above	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
7	Total amount actually sanctioned (Rs.) ..	4,917,933	3,003,876	6,666,825
8	Total amount actually disbursed during the year (Rs.)	4,153,330	2,605,484	6,058,746
9	Total loans repaid during the year (Rs.) ..	1,426,510	1,718,050	1,428,806

N. A.=Not available

Source :

Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Rajkot

It can be seen from the above statement that as compared to the years 1960-61 and 1961-62, a very large amount of money was advanced by the Bank in the year 1962-63. This was necessitated by the famine and scarcity conditions prevailing in the district during the period under review. This

factor was also responsible for a meagre recovery in that particular year, viz., 1962-63.

The Bank, as a matter of policy has been taking special care of the small cultivators. It tries to see that even a cultivator of small means can avail of the facilities provided by it. The Bank advances loans for such agricultural purposes as sinking of new wells and repairs of old, purchase of tractors, oil engines, pumping-sets, contour bunding and other improvement works. (The activities of the Bank are described in greater detail in Chapter VI-Banking, Trade and Commerce).

Animal Husbandry

Cattle wealth is of great importance to the economy of the district, especially in agriculture. Every farmer usually has at least a cow or a buffalo and a pair of bullocks which perform a variety of functions chief among them being ploughing, drawing water-lifts (*kos*), carrying bullock carts, agricultural implements, etc. Mechanical devices have not been introduced to any appreciable extent in the cultivation of land and other farming operations. Bullocks ,therefore, provide the principal motive power needed for agriculture.

The following statement gives figures of the livestock population in the district for the years 1951, 1956 and 1961.

STATEMENT IV·27
Livestock, 1951–61

	Category	Population according to 1951 Census	Population according to 1956 Census	Population according to 1961 Census
1	Bullocks and Cows	207,947	309,249	347,486
	(*a*) males over 3 years	77,930	126,281	152,207
	(*b*) females over 3 years	75,278	83,379	97,437
	(in milk)	(50,547)	(45,091)	(48,739)
	(*c*) young stock	54,739	99,589	97,842
2	Buffaloes	126,807	119,111	135,839
	(*a*) males over 3 years	805	1,224	1,155
	(*b*) females over 3 years	78,631	69,106	80,665
	(in milk)	(59,440)	(30,808)	(41,644)
	(*c*) young stock	47,371	48,781	54,019
3	Sheep	159,249	186,268	195,146
4	Goats	119,970	146,918	113,779
5	Horses and ponies	4,294	9,385	10,411
6	Mules	2	6	145
7	Donkeys	585	5,882	5,153
8	Camels	585	101	150
9	Pigs	1	..	..
	Total Livestock	619,440	778,920	909,109
10	Poultry	3,996	21,964	21,362

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

The livestock population of the district has shown a steady increase during the period 1951-61. It has risen from 619,440 in 1951 to 776,920 in 1956, and to 808,109 in 1961 showing an increase of 188,669 or 30.46 per cent during the decade, 1951-61. This increase is indicated in most of the categories of livestock except a few. Cows and bullocks have increased by 139,539 or 67.10 per cent during the decade. The total number of cows shows an increase of 29.44 per cent but there is a decrease of 3.58 per cent in the number of milch cows. The number of bullocks and young stock has increased considerably, by 95.31 per cent and 78.74 per cent respectively. Despite an overall increase of 9,032 in number or 7.12 per cent in the case of buffaloes the number of milch buffaloes shows a decline of 29.60 per cent and the number of male buffaloes over 3 years of age shows an increase of 43.48 per cent during the decade. Sheep increased by 22.54 per cent but in case of goats, their number declined considerably during the period 1956-61. Horses and ponies rose by 6,117 or 142.45 per cent and donkeys by 4,568 or 780.85 per cent as their demand has increased considerably in moving earth, bricks, etc., in building and construction. The number of camels declined from 585 in 1951 to 150 in 1961. Poultry has shown remarkable increase from 3,906 in 1951 to 21,282 in 1961 or 444.85 per cent during the decade.

Animal Diseases

Animals suffer from a number of diseases such as Anthrax or *kallo tav*, Black-quarter or *ganthio tav*, Rinderpest or *bulia*, Pluero pneumonia or *unkariyu*, Surra or *chakri*, Rabies or *hadakva*, foot and mouth diseases, etc. Of these, Anthrax, Black-quarter and Rabies, though not of common occurrence are more deadly than the others. Anthrax is generally confounded with Black quarter and more often results in death. Others are usually controlled by inoculation.

Veterinary Aid

Every taluka headquarters in the district has got a veterinary dispensary where the livestock of the surrounding areas are brought for medical treatment. Sihor taluka has one more at Songadh. The animals are vaccinated to protect them against the commonly prevalent diseases. There are in addition eleven veterinary aid centres and one mobile dispensary in the district. Various schemes relating to veterinary aids, and prevention of contagious diseases were undertaken during the Second Five Year Plan. Schemes relating to the breeding and improvement of livestock, etc., were also undertaken during this period. There are special bull rearing centres run by the government. Bull calves are purchased and reared systematically for breeding purposse. During the Second Plan period, 1,363 pedigree bulls were supplied to various centres in the district for improving the breed of cattle. In 1960-61 there were three key village centres at Mahuva, Bhavnagar and Kundla functioning in the district. Steps for improving the breed of horses

had been taken up and 12 horses were certified for the purpose. Cattle fairs and exhibitions are also held.

Poultry

Poultry keeping as a scientific pursuit was unknown in the past. The people of the district have begun to appreciate the value of poultry as a source of subsidiary income and food production. There has been a substantial increase in the number of poultry and poultry keepers in the district as evidenced by the figures of the livestock census given earlier. Subsidy is given to the deserving poultry keepers to encourage improved poultry keeping. Organisation of poultry shows, supply of white leghorn cocks at concessional rates and technical advice in poultry management are given by the District Animal Husbandry Officer. A loan of Rs. 500 is given to a person who wants to start a poultry farm.

Dairying

The objects of dairy development are (1) to supply pure and good milk to the people at a reasonable price, as also (2) to ensure reasonable return to the milk producers. With this purpose in view, the Bhavnagar Public Dairy had been started in Bhavnagar from 1955 by the Saurashtra Government, which had contributed Rs. 3 lakhs as share capital. The dairy supplies 1,000 litres of milk daily. To encourage co-operative efforts at supplying milk to this dairy two grasslands admeasuring 1,713 acres and a loan of Rs. 2 lakhs were provided to co-operative societies during the Second Plan period. Government also provides Rs. 2,500 by way of loan and Rs. 12,000 by way of subsidy to the primary milk producing societies.

Fisheries

Bhavnagar district with an extensive seacoast of about 70 miles, a sea bed with uneven contours supported by a cool winter season and other oceanographic conditions offers good facilities for marine fisheries and their development. The Arabian Sea on the south and the Gulf of Cambay on the east of the district are quite favourable for fishing. Fishing is done round the year.

The overall population of fishermen in the district was 1,288 in 1960-61, of whom 571 persons were active fishermen. 82 families depended only on fishing for their livelihood. Fishermen mainly belong to the Kharwa, Vaghri, Koli and Muslim communities. Kharwas have settled in Bhavnagar district since the last 25 years in fishing trade, whereas Vaghris are the permanent dwellers of the district. Kolis residing on the seacoast of Mahuva and Katpur and the Muslim fishermen of Gogha and nearby places are usually engaged in fishing.

Important varieties of fish in the district are Bombay Duck, *Colla*, Prawns and *Mullet*. But Bombay Duck only accounts for more than 60 per cent of the total landings.

Fishing is generally done with drag-nets, hooks and lines, and also with cast-nets, *gholiyas*, *wedi* and *palia*. The boats are of *machhwa* type 20 to 30 feet long. About 7 fishermen with about 25 nets sit in a boat. The cost of each such boat varied between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000 in 1960-61. These boats have generally not been mechanised so far. According to the information supplied by the Directorate of Fisheries there were 8 non-mechanical fishing boats at Bhavnagar at the end of the year 1960-61. Gogha had 4 such boats.

Curing of Bombay Duck is done by sun drying. When the boats bring their catch to the shore, the fish are unloaded in baskets. The baskets full of fish are dipped in sea water for a wash and then taken to scaffoldings erected for the purpose. They are hung on thick ropes in pairs for drying for about 72 hours, the prominent jaw of one fish being interlocked with the other. The Bombay Ducks on drying lose 60 per cent to 70 per cent in weight. The rate of Bombay Ducks is generally fixed on weight and depends on their quality.

The government has initiated schemes for mechanisation of fishing, improvement of fishing boats, supply of implements for fishing under T.C.M. aid programme, etc.

FORESTS

The forest area in the district is very limited and not concentrated, but scattered. In the past, forests were neglected and due to wanton cutting of trees, grazing and poaching, a decrease in forestry resulting in soil erosion had begun to take place. Forest worth the name are found only in the hilly areas near Sihor, Palitana, Kundla and Bhavnagar. These areas have quite a good tree growth. Areas easily accessible have a scattered tree growth, which is generally stunted and malformed. Flat areas without tree growth have been turned into *vidis* or grass lands. According to the Conservator of Forests, there were 106.52 sq. miles of forest in the district out of which 11.07 sq. miles were protected and 95.45 sq. miles were unclassified. The total area under forests is only a little over one per cent. The following species of trees are prominently noticed in the forests of the district.

Acacia senegal (*gorad*), *acacia arabica* (*baval*), *gymnosporia montena* (*vikalo*), *balanites roxburghii* (*ingor*), *boswelia serrata* (*saledi*), *annogeissus pendule* (*dhavado*), *terminalia tomentosa* (*sajad*), etc.

Prosopis juliflora (*gando baval*) has been successfully introduced in these areas especially in the salty waste lands and good plantations are being raised in many places. *Casvarina equisetifolia* (*saru*) has been planted in the coastal tracts with appreciable results. Teak, *deshi babul*, *arthi*, *arduso*, *semal*, etc., are also raised in various places. Along the coast mangrove species have been found to be thriving. Since the forests of the district are poorly stocked, it is not possible to exploit the forests for timber and firewood. The existing

forests have to be well preserved and guarded against soil erosion and further deterioration.

Afforestation schemes have been undertaken during the period of the two Five Year Plans. During 1961-62, 175 acres were afforested under the 'Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests' Scheme, and 200 acres were afforested under the 'Plantation on Coastal Border Scheme.' Khar lands afforestation has also been undertaken. Stricter protection and artificial regeneration through scientific management has gone a long way in improving the degraded forests. Grazing in forests is permitted by the government, generally, on payment of prescribed fees. *Vanmahotsava* celebrated with public collaboration has developed among the people a growing consciousness for the preservation and protection of trees.

FLOODS, FAMINES AND DROUGHTS

Floods were few but famines were many in peninsular Gujarat, where the vagaries of monsoon have been frequent. While it is not possible to have particulars of famines which occurred in the district the distant in past, it is possible to trace their occurrence till the middle of the 16th century for the peninsula as a whole. Details for the district are, however, available since the 19th century, particularly in respect of the areas included in the former Bhavnagar State.

The earliest recorded failure of rains in Saurashtra was in the year 1559 A.D., whereafter many lean and famine years have been recorded in this part of Western India, resulting in considerable damage to human and cattle lives and standing crops. The famine of 1559 A.D. was popularly known as Jagdusha's famine because this merchant prince of Saurashtra helped the people of famine stricken areas very liberally in cash and kind to relieve the severity of this calamity. Another famine which is said to have been one of the most severe was the one known as *satyasiyo*, that is to say, one which occurred in 1687 Vikram Samvat, when owing to complete failure of crops, food had become so scarce that the people are reported to have parted with their children for a loaf of bread. Other famines which find mention in the Gazetteer are those of the year 1647, 1681, 1682, 1686, 1694 and 1696. About subsequent famines, the Report on Famine Operations in the *Bhavnagar State* published in 1900 states,"during the century that passed between the disorders that broke out in Gujarat after the death of Aurangzeb (1707 A.D.) and the settlement of Kathiawar undertaken by Col. Walker in 1807-8, no fewer than 11 famines of more or less severity occurred in the province. These were in 1718-19, 1723,1731-32, 1747, 1751, 1764, 1774, 1780, 1785, 1790 and 1804".

During all these years the Saurashtra region was adversely affected by the scarcity not only of food but also of grass and water causing much loss of human lives and cattle wealth.

The following are the particulars of the years of scarcity and famine in Bhavnagar district since 1804.

1804

The year 1804 was a famine year and it affected some parts of this district. The years 1811-12 and 1812-13 were also scarcity years.

1814

In 1814 there was excessive rain followed by bubonic plague in 1815 causing much distress owing to failure of crops. Many persons distressed by the severity of the famine in other parts of Saurashtra, emigrated southwards to Bhavnagar, where the famine was comparatively less severe in its effect.

There was excessive rain again in 1820 while rainfall was scanty in 1825-26, 1834-35, 1838-39, 1846, 1857, 1861 and 1864. The famine of the year 1825 was more severe in Bhavnagar where rainfall was seriously deficient with the result that the ruler had to procure grains from foreign countries.

1877-79

The monsoon of 1877 had been rather irregular. The monsoon was delayed till September and heavy downpour in September-October made raising of any crops impossible. Severe drought affected parts of this district particularly the area of Kund'a, Talaja, Mahuva, Botad and Gadhada (from January to August 1878). In fact the distress had started in these areas from 1875 and had continued up to 1878 due to a succession of bad years. Wells had dried up by the end of September, 1875, and there was an acute scarcity both of water and grain. The Government of Bhavnagar State opened relief works at a number of places where the highest daily average of workers was 17,035.

1899-1900

The famine of 1899-1900 which affected practically the whole of Saurashtra and many other parts of the country was severe beyond any precedent. The severity of this famine known as *chhapanio* (that which occurred in 1956th year o' Vikram era) is not forgotton by those who have witnessed it. The rains after a good beginning in June stopped completely. The total average annual rainfall was even less than 10 inches. It was estimated that an area of over 2,000 sq. miles of the Bhavnagar State alone was severely affected by famine conditions-Kundla, Botad, Gadhadha and Bhal being the worst affected. An acute shortage of grass and grain prevailed all over the district. The States did their best to avert the crisis. Reports of the Bhavnagar State record that the State had immediately started relief works incurring a total expenditure of over Rs. 12 lakhs. The daily average number of workers on these relief works was as high as 37,344. The State also issued *tagavi* loans on a liberal scale and grass reserves were thrown open to cultivators. To avert the food crisis over 33 lakhs of Bengali maunds of food grains at a cost of over Rs. 139 lakhs "were imported by sea both for local consumption and for distribution in other parts of Kathiawad and

beyond its border."[1] The general public also took active steps to help the distressed people. A contribution of over Rs. 30,000 was collected in Bhavnagar exclusive of Rs. 7,000 contributed by the ruler himself, in the public meeting of December 1899 called for this purpose. Local committees were formed at Bhavnagar, Kundla, Mahuva, Botad and Sihor for the administration of relief. Cheap grain shops on private account were opened at all the main towns at a total loss of about Rs. 10,000 to the Darbar. Poor houses were started at Mahuva, Kundla, Umrala, Botad, Talaja, Sihor, Gadhada, Jesar, and Adhewada. Out of the total population of 4.83 lakhs, 3.43 lakhs or over 71 per cent were badly affected by this famine.

Measures, more or less on similar lines, were taken in Palitana and other smaller estates though no detailed information about the same is available. All these measures went a long way in mitigating the gravity of the situation. Though there was a high mortality in many parts of the district due mainly to fever, dysentery and cholera, no deaths were reported to have occurred due to starvation.

1904-06

The years 1904 and 1905 also proved to be scarcity years. In 1904 Bhavnagar and Palitana received a total rainfall of 13.34 inches and 9.82 inches respectively. The rainfall was even less in 1905 in most of the Palitana State. As a result most of the crops dried up and the total out-turn of crops was even less than one fourth of the usual. Moreover, severe pests on two different occasions affected cotton plants resulting in a very low yield of that important cash crop. Remission and concessions in revenue were given in all the States. The Bhavnagar State suspended a part of full revenue in 382 villages. Conditions were so bad in Kundla and Bhal areas that the ruler ordered the adoption of *bhagbatai* (crop share) system of revenue collection. *Tagavi* loans were advanced to cultivators and relief works were opened at some places.

1911-12

The rains again failed in 1911. While Bhavnagar recorded a rainfall of only 7.46 inches Palitana, and Vala had only 7 and 5.66 inches of rain respectively during the whole year. This meagre rainfall was also irregular and unequally distributed. Most of the Kharif crops failed necessitating large remissions in revenue. Bhavnagar and Palitana suspended respectively Rs. 14 lakhs and Rs. 3 lakhs worth of land revenue during that year. Relief works, entailing a cost of over Rs. 50 lakhs, were started in Bhavnagar providing work to over 37,000 persons. Three cattle camps were opened one each at Bhavnagar, Botad, and Sihor to stave off the ill effects of recurrent famines and scarcity. The Bhavnagar ruler also established a Famine Reserve Fund of Rs. 20 lakhs to be utilised for the benefit of agriculturists.

1. *Report on Famine Operations in the Bhavnagar State in* 1899-1900

1913

Rainfall during 1913 was uneven. While it was below normal in some parts of the district it was above the average in others. In Palitana, for example, it rained as much as 66 inches causing floods in June, which resulted in a loss of 186 human lives and 500 heads of cattle and inundated nearly 2,000 houses rendering about 6,000 persons homeless. The loss due to the flood was estimated to be Rs. 2 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 156,000 was collected in the flood relief fund at a public meeting held in Palitana on the day following the flood. More than Rs. 126,000 from this fund were spent in rebuilding the houses destroyed by the flood.

1918

Rainfall during 1918 was insufficient and uneven in distribution. It was just sufficient to enable the cultivators to commence sowing operations but thereafter it failed in most parts of the district. The average rainfall in Bhavnagar was 6·24 inches while it was only 5·5 inches in Palitana. Most of the crops did not ripen and famine conditions were feared. To add to this gravity, a wave of influenza fever passed over the district attacking almost every inhabitant. The epidemic which lasted for two months took a heavy toll of life as a result of which standing crops lay unattended and open to stray cattle. Farmers lost even the little that they had hoped to gather from their fields. The Bhavnagar State suspended the revenue for the year and advanced loans to needy cultivators. Cattle camps were started in Palitana and 21,500 *deshi* maunds (40 lbs. each) of grain were sold at concessional rates through cheap grain shops opened by the State. *Tagavi* loans were also advanced. Similar measures were taken in other areas also.

1919

Scarcity conditions continued also in 1919, as rainfall was unevenly distributed in many parts. As a result of the failure of monsoon the out-turn of food crops was not satisfactory. The most affected part was the area near Gadhada where rainfall was less than 10 inches. The after effects of the virulent influenza epidemic disabled a large number of cultivators from attending to their fields. Food production reached a low level and prices went up. *Tagavi* loans were advanced and grass and grain were given at concessional rates.

1923-24, 1924-25

The monsoon was not up to expectations in 1923, 1924 and 1925 in many parts of the district. There was consequently a decrease in the sub soil water in the land resulting in a decrease in production even of the irrigated crops. There was a total failure of crops like *jowar* and *bajri* and a partial failure of cotton and wheat. The scarcity conditions in three successive years told heavily on the revenue of the States and the material condition of the peasantry.

1934

Rainfall was scanty again in 1934 in some parts of the district especially in the Kundla mahal of the former Bhavnagar State, though the average rainfall for the State was reported to be 17 inches. .Suspension of revenue was ordered and *tagavi* advances for various purposes were made by the State. Relief works were started, existing tanks and wells were deepened and some new wells were constructed.

1939-40

There was a partial failure of rains in almost all parts of the district in the year 1939. Bhavnagar recorded an average rainfall of 17 inches. Crops began to wither and scarcity conditions prevailed everywhere. Groundnut, the most important cash crop in this district, failed completely while *jowar* and *bajri* gave only 25 per cent of the normal yield. There was very little growth of grass, which resulted in an acute scarcity of fodder. Bhavnagar State came to the rescue of the cultivators and threw open all Darbari grasslands to the cattle of the cultivators. The stock of grass in different godowns, however, was soon exhausted and fresh stocks had to be imported at a great expense. The State sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the supply of grass to cattle and of grain to cultivators. *Tagavi* loans were advanced to cultivators on a liberal scale, suspension of revenues was ordered in several villages and relief works were started.

1951-52

No grave famine fortunately affected the district for over a decade after 1939-40. However, the years 1948-49 and 1951-52 were scarcity years, the latter being more acute. Rainfall was below normal in Bhavnagar and many other parts of the district and crop production was much below expectation. The Government of Saurashtra started relief measures in the scarcity affected areas to provide employment to the people. Scarcity conditions were declared in several villages that were very severely affected in the talukas of Talaja, Mahuva, Palitana and Gadhada mahal. The year 1951-52 was, however, worse. Rainfall was not more than 15 inches in any part of the district. In Bhavnagar, Palitana, Umrala and Gadhada rainfall was not more than 8 inches. Large areas in the district did not get the first rains before the end of July. The failure of rains caused considerable anxiety. Rains in August and September were negligible and scarcity conditions were immediately declared. As many as 652 villages in the district were under acute scarcity conditions while 370 villages were under semi-scarcity conditions which were prevalent in all parts of the district. To meet the acute shortage of water at a number of places, government had to provide drinking water facilities by deepening existing wells, sinking new ones and supplying water by means of motor tankers in the Bhal and other areas. 761 wells were deepened and 87 new wells were constructed. Bhavnagar city which experienced an unprecedented water famine was

supplied water from the Sihor lake some twenty miles away. As much as Rs. 28 lakhs were advanced to the cultivators of the district by way of *tagavi* loans. Gratuitous relief was granted to the aged and the infirm according to the provisions of the Bombay Famine Relief Code. Free ration was supplied to needy persons. Cattle feeding centres numbering 227 were opened where about 1,000 cattle were fed everyday at a nominal rate. All these measures went a long way in helping the people and cattle to pass through the critical period without any loss of life. Any delay of these measures might have resulted in a grave calamity to the district.

Precarious Areas

The Fact Finding Committee for Survey of Scarcity Areas in Bombay State, 1960, appointed by the former Government of Bombay, " to examine the economic conditions in all the areas in the Bombay State with a view to assessing the effect of recurring famine and scarcity conditions...... ", and " to name the areas which should......be treated as precarious areas deserving of being recommended for the future preventive and ameliorative measures to deal with similar threats " has classified Sihor, Talaja, and Palitana talukas, Gogha mahal and part of Mahuva taluka as scarcity free areas, while the Bhal area of Bhavnagar taluka, the whole of Gadhada mahal and the eastern part of Vallabhipur mahal as precarious areas, having scarcity conditions once in every six years. The remaining portions, viz., Umrala and Gariadhar mahals, Botad and Kundla talukas, Bhadrod and Mahuva circles of Mahuva taluka and western half of Vallabhipur mahal were found to have scarcity conditions once in every ten years.

The most of the severity of famine and scarcity years has been considerably reduced now owing to the facilities of movement and quick transportation of grass, food and even water, which is carried these days to the affected areas by means of motor tankers. If food is not available locally it can be had from other parts of the country where it is surplus, and if it is not available in the country itself, it can be had from any part of the world, as the former distance which made any relief measures on any appreciable scale impossible has now been bridged by modern means of transport and communications. The effects on people in general and agriculture in particular has been substantially alleviated by various measures of relief rendered possible through the advance of science and increased means of irrigation from various projects major, medium and minor. The agriculturist is now in a far better position to withstand the ill effects of scarcity and famine because his power of resistence and sustenance has increased to a far greater extent than what it was 50 years ago.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT

Persons engaged in

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Cultivators		
			Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
	District Total	**T**	**203,854**	**130,624**	**73,230**
		R	**193,304**	**123,993**	**69,211**
		U	**10,550**	**6,531**	**4,019**
1	Bhavnagar	T	13,861	8,267	5,594
		R	13,668	8,120	5,548
		U	193	147	46
2	Gogha	T	9,104	6,976	2,128
		R	9,005	6,896	2,109
		U	99	80	19
3	Vallabhipur	T	11,068	6,587	4,481
		R	9,982	6,064	3,918
		U	1,086	523	563
4	Botad	T	77,082	40,207	37,475
		R	46,380	23,996	22,384
		U	31,302	16,211	15,091
5	Gadhada	T	71,855	37,038	34,817
		R	62,732	32,325	30,407
		U	9,123	4,713	4,410
6	Palitana	T	89,871	46,494	43,377
		R	65,290	33,711	31,579
		U	24,581	12,783	11,798
7	Sihor	T	74,023	38,464	35,559
		R	58,760	30,694	28,066
		U	15,263	7,770	7,493
8	Umrala	T	44,206	22,690	21,316
		R	39,951	20,719	19,232
		U	4,255	2,171	2,084
9	Gariodhar	T	56,401	29,061	27,340
		R	48,199	24,874	23,325
		U	8,202	4,187	4,015
10	Kundla	T	129,726	66,561	63,165
		R	98,675	50,527	48,148
		U	31,051	16,034	15,017
11	Mahuva	T	140,407	76,373	73,124
		R	116,765	59,331	57,434
		U	32,732	17,042	15,690
12	Talaja	T	23,222	15,401	7,821
		R	23,030	15,273	7,757
		U	192	128	64

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

IV-1

Agriculture, 1961

Agricultural Labourers			Total Agriculture Population			Total/ Rural/ Urban	Taluka/Mahal
Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females		
7	8	9	10	11	12	3	2
63,486	**35,319**	**28,167**	**267,340**	**165,943**	**101,397**	**T**	**District Total**
61,635	**34,121**	**27,514**	**254,839**	**158,114**	**96,725**	**R**	
1,851	**1,198**	**653**	**12,501**	**7,829**	**4,672**	**U**	
2,913	1,597	1,316	16,774	9,864	6,910	T	1 Bhavnagar
2,848	1,545	1,303	16.516	9,665	6,851	R	
65	52	13	258	199	59	U	
3,078	1,954	1,124	12,182	8,930	3,252	T	2 Gogha
3.054	1,938	1,116	12,059	8,834	3,225	R	
24	16	8	123	96	27	U	
3,249	1,747	1,502	14,317	8,334	5,983	T	3 Vallabhipur
3,210	1,720	1,490	13,192	7,784	5,408	R	
39	27	12	1,125	550	575	U	
5,313	2,670	2,643	82,995	42,877	40,118	T	4 Botad
3,055	1,525	1.530	49,435	25,521	23,914	R	
2,258	1,145	1,113	33,560	17,356	16,204	U	
3,563	1,799	1,764	75,418	38,837	36,581	T	5 Gadhada
3,249	1,634	1,615	65,981	33,959	32,022	R	
314	165	149	9,437	4,878	4,559	U	
3,837	1,955	1,882	93,708	48,449	45,259	T	6 Palitana
3,470	1.770	1,700	68,760	35,481	33,279	R	
367	185	182	24,948	12,968	11,980	U	
4,067	2,088	1,979	78,090	40,552	37,538	T	7 Sihor
3,619	1,851	1,768	62,379	32,545	29,834	R	
448	237	211	15,711	8,007	7,704	U	
3,446	741	1,705	47,652	24,631	23,021	T	8 Umrala
3,180	598	1,582	43,131	22,317	20,814	R	
266	143	123	4,521	2,314	2,207	U	
2,813	1,429	1,384	59,213	30,490	28,724	T	9 Gariadhar
2,310	1,180	1,130	50,509	26,054	24,455	R	
503	249	254	8,705	4,436	4,269	U	
5,871	2,956	2,915	135,597	69,517	66,080	T	10 Kundla
4,649	2,317	2,332	103,324	52,844	50,480	R	
1,222	639	583	32,273	16,673	15,600	U	
4,855	2,371	2,484	154,352	78,744	75,608	T	11 Mahuva
3,678	1,789	1,889	120,443	61,120	59,323	R	
1,177	582	595	33,909	17,624	16,285	U	
6,336	3,534	2,802	29,558	18,935	10,623	T	12 Talaja
6,312	3,515	2,797	29,342	18,788	10,554	R	
24	19	5	216	147	69	U	

STATEMENT

Classification of land

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total geographical area	Uncultivated		
			Forest	Barren and uncultivable land	Land put to non-agricultural uses
1	2	3	4	5	6
	District Total ..	2,225,668	27,628	221,850	62,796
1	Bhavnagar	235,866	334	93,294	12,154
2	Botad	187,513	..	13,061	5,101
3	Gadhada	219,597	—	14,565	6,907
4	Gariadhar	117,555	..	1,140	5,779
5	Gogha	145,603	2,863	21,964	6,857
6	Kundla	302,224	4,063	5,441	3,235
7	Mahuva	209,893	329	16,782	3,243
8	Palitana	180,325	6,235	17,949	6,433
9	Sihor	160,189	11,434	9,849	5,868
10	Talaja	220,099	2,370	6,651	3,202
11	Umrala	99,920	—	5,848	2,908
12	Vallabhipur	146,884	—	15,306	1,109

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

IV·3

Taluka / Mahal, 1963-64

(AREA IN ACRES)

area					Cultivated area		
Culturable waste	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	Current fallows	Other fallows	Total uncultivated area	Net area sown	Area sown more than once	Total cropped area
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
86,592	242,452	61,751	46,848	749,917	1,542,105	33,586	1,575,751
19,160	9,212	..	2,858	137,012	90,970	7,884	98,854
6,911	10,892	2,404	7,683	46,052	139,221	2,240	141,461
15,204	13,082	2,907	5,700	58,365	161,232	...	161,232
208	13,240	937	289	21,593	95,962	..	95,962
3,125	10,770	3,012	3,425	52,016	91,061	2,526	93,587
3,540	60,276	1,061	955	78,571	219,962	3,601	223,653
6,172	43,898	5,254	5,857	81,535	219,815	8,543	228,358
1,839	17,193	14,258	13,247	77,154	103,171	..	103,171
15,573	12,833	1,619	3,660	60,836	95,935	3,418	99,353
7,103	29,141	26,131	3,174	77,772	137,043	5,284	142,327
1,662	9,713	2,342	...	22,473	77,447	..	77,447
6,005	12,202	1,826	.	36,538	110,346	..	110,346

STATEMENT IV·9

Area under Food Crops Irrigated by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Rice	Wheat	Jowar	Bajri	Gram	Sugar-cane	Chillies	Miscel-laneous food crops	Total food crops
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	District Total	**7,886**	**56,393**	**21,409**	**213**	**103**	**12,094**	**18,000**	**4,979**	**121,077**
1	Bhavnagar	214	4,161	8,181			52	52	..	12,660
2	Botad	326	7,939	540	92	.	120	3,443	2,748	15,208
3	Gadhada	690	8,570		..	.	590	4,937	559	15,340
4	Gariadhar	815	2,673		.	103	3,978	1,600	181	9,350
5	Gogha	223	1,345	788			290	545	..	3,191
6	Kundla .	952	5,783				1,544	166	290	8,735
7	Mahuva	1,400	1,301	2,201		.	572	462	201	6,137
8	Palitana	605	819	..	.		2,091	1,555	453	5,523
9	Sihor .	416	5,037	292		.	1,149	1,424	400	8,718
10	Talaja	1,736	2,963	3,041	..		728	1,003	.	9,471
11	Umrala	399	10,755	998	121	..	902	1,392		14,567
12	Vallabhipur	116	5,047	5,368	.		78	1,421	147	12,171

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·10

Area under Non-food Crops Irrigated by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Cotton	Hemp	Ground nut	Tobacco	Fodder crops	Miscel-laneous non-food crops	Total non-food crops	Total area under irrigated crops
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	District Total	**3,612**	**7**	**2,182**	**1**	**13,055**	**6,244**	**25,101**	**146,178**
1	Bhavnagar	.	.	.	1	182	.	183	12,843
2	Botad .	1,097	.		.	.	4,197	6,194	21,402
3	Gadhada		.			7,180		7,180	22,535
4	Gariadhar			.	.	..		..	9,350
5	Gogha .	.	..	100	..	660	.	760	3,951
6	Kundla	..		46	.	841	.	887	9,622
7	Mahuva	..	..	579		310	2,017	2,900	9,043
8	Palitana					..		..	5,523
9	Sihor ..	.		.	.	1,057	..	1,057	9,775
10	Talaja .	—	..	906	.	1,844	..	2,750	12,221
11	Umrala ..	1,615	7	551	..	834	30	3,037	17,604
12	Vallabhipur	...	—	...		138	...	138	12,309

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·12

Area under Cereals by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Rice	Wheat	*Jowar* Kharif	*Jowar* Rabi	*Jowar* Total	*Bajri*	Maize	Kodra	Little Millets or *Kalthi*	*Bunti*	Other cereals	Total cereals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	District Total	**7,886**	**86,950**	**273,496**	**21,409**	**294,905**	**299,824**	**101**	**65**	**11**	**63**	**12**	**689,817**
1	Bhavnagar	214	8,574	25,261	8,181	33,442	8,382	4	..	..	13	..	50,629
2	Botad	326	7,939	23,577	540	24,117	11,893	..	..	..	..	12	44,287
3	Gadhada	690	8,570	23,234	.	23,234	16,723	6	51	11	..	...	49,285
4	Gariadhar	815	2,673	21,196	.	21,196	18,711	14	..	..	..	...	43,409
5	Gogha	223	1,345	27,089	788	27,877	17,213	..	..	..	..	—	46,658
6	Kundla	952	5,783	21,985	..	21,985	62,693	—	..	...	...	—	91,413
7	Mahuva	1,400	1,301	21,932	2,201	24,133	67,846	72	..	—	—	—	94,752
8	Palitana	605	819	18,361	.	18,361	26,739	...	—	—	—	—	46,524
9	Sihor	416	5,037	18,954	292	19,246	17,011	...	—	—	—	—	41,710
10	Talaja	1,736	2,963	27,469	3,041	30,510	41,120	5	14	.	...	..	76,348
11	Umrala	399	13,584	11,057	998	12,055	8,893	..	..	..	..	..	34,931
12	Vallabhipur	110	28,362	33,381	5,368	38,749	2,600	..	..	..	50	—	69,871

Source :
Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT VI·13

Area under Pulses by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Gram	Green Gram or *Mug*	*Tur*	Black Gram or *Adad*	Horse *Gram*	*Math*	*Val*	Other Pulses	Total Pulses
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	District Total	**1,257**	**3,421**	**69**	**6,678**	**3,946**	**3,850**	**5**	**106**	**19,332**
1	Bhavnagar	112	100		28		27		26	293
2	Botad .. .	16	391	.	286	573	2,157		8	3,431
3	Gadhada	201	98	6	44	240	684	5		1,280
4	Gariadhar ..	181	47		28	..	15		72	343
5	Gogha .. .	78	433		97	653	382	.	.	1,643
6	Kundla .	74	675		1,534	555	..			2,838
7	Mahuva	3	527	..	3,471	771	295	.		5,067
8	Palitana	188	30	35	35	370	18			676
9	Sihor ..	42	534	..	51	235	..	..	.	862
10	Talaja ..	27	440	26	1,104	541	233	.		2,380
11	Umrala ..	290	104	..	..	.	..	..	.	394
12	Vallabhipur	45	33	.		.	39	..	..	125

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·14

Area under Oilseeds by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Ground nut	Coco nut	Sesa mum	Rape	Mus- tard	Total edible oilseeds	Castor	Total non- edible oilseeds	Total oilseeds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	District Total	**587,422**	**520**	**35,073**	**52**	**249**	**623,816**	**6**	**6**	**623,822**
1	Bhavnagar	16,576		1,610		240	18,035			18,635
2	Botad	64,050	.	7,409	52	.	71,511	..	.	71,511
3	Gadhada	75,804		6,807		.	82,611	4	4	82,615
4	Gariadhar ..	35,526		1,895			37,421	.	.	37,421
5	Gogha	28,717		1,471			30,188	..		30,188
6	Kundla .	93,259		4,349		.	97,608	2	2	97,610
7	Mahuva	89,108	520	2,304		.	91,932	.	.	91,932
8	Palitana	38,939		2,977			41,916	..		41,916
9	Sihor .	37,810	.	1,218	.	..	39,028	..	..	30,028
10	Talaja .	56,105		3,233			59,338		.	59,338
11	Umrala .	32,875		837	.		33,712	..	..	33,712
12	Vallabhipur	18,653	..	763	..	..	19,416	..	..	19,416

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·15

Area under Sugar-cane, Cotton and Tobacco by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Sugar-cane	Cotton	Tobacco
1	2	3	4	5
	District Total	**12,139**	**69,985**	**35**
1	Bhavnagar	52	2,644	1
2	Botad	120	15,051	..
3	Gadhada	590	14,518	..
4	Gariadhar	4,023	3,169	6
5	Gogha	290	280	1
6	Kundla	1,544	6,238	13
7	Mahuva	572	76	4
8	Palitana	2,091	2,905	1
9	Sihor	1,149	5,495	..
10	Talaja	728	1	9
11	Umrala	902	5,971	..
12	Vallabhipur	78	13,637	.

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·16

Area under Condiments and Spices by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Chillies	Garlic	Fenugreek (*Methi*)	Other condiments and spices	Total condiments and spices
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	District Total	**18,058**	**9**	**154**	**1**	**18,222**
1	Bhavnagar	52	.	.		**52**
2	Botad	3,443	.			**3,443**
3	Gadhada	4,937	2	..		**4,939**
4	Gariadhar	1,658		..	.	**1,658**
5	Gogha	545	.	4	1	**550**
6	Kundla	166	..	..		**166**
7	Mahuva	462	.	.	.	**462**
8	Palitana	1,555	2	.	.	**1,557**
9	Sihor	1,424	5	150	.	**1,579**
10	Talaja	1,003	.	.	..	**1,003**
11	Umrala	1,392	.	..	..	**1,392**
12	Vallabhipur	1,421	.	.	.	**1,421**

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·17

Area under Fruits by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Banana	Mangoes	Sour lime	Pome-granate	Guava	Papaya	Other fresh fruits	Total fresh fruits
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	District Total	**43**	**2,120**	**90**	**802**	**873**	**262**	**255**	**4,445**
1	Bhavnagar	1	210	50	641	121	18	38	1,379
2	Botad			28			40	27	95
3	Gadhada		1	6	19	11	14	1	55
4	Gariadhar						.	13	13
5	Gogha	28	160		142	300	52	30	712
6	Kundla	1	357	1	.		10	.	369
7	Mahuva	7	930				6		943
8	Palitana		32	5			27	46	110
9	Sihor		332		..	116	91	..	539
10	Talaja		67				.	100	167
11	Umrala	6	28		.	..	..	..	34
12	Vallabhipur					25	4		29

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·18

Area under Vegetables by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

(IN ACRES)

Sl No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Potato	Tapioca	Sweet potato	Onion	*Suran*-elephant foot	Carrot	Radish	Cabbage	Brinjal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	District Total	**8**	**16**	**72**	**3.083**	**2**	**612**	**1**	**52**	**755**
1	Bhavnagar		16		1				11	155
2	Botad			21	.		160	.	.	42
3	Gadhada			7		.	377	1		21
4	Gariadhar	.		.	.		..	..	..	..
5	Gogha	.		23	252		75	..	5	163
6	Kundla	.					..	..		81
7	Mahuva		.	.	453		..	..	..	..
8	Palitana			6	..	..	..	..	23	91
9	Sihor				22	1	.	..	13	153
10	Talaja		.	..	2,355	.	..	..	..	..
11	Umrala	.		6	.		..	..	..	..
12	Vallabhipur	8	.	9	..	1	..	..	..	29

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·18—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Tomato	Fenu- greek	*Bhinda* (Lady's finger)	Musk melon (*Kharbuj*)	Other vegetables: Win- ter	Other vegetables: Sum- mer	Other vegetables: Total	Total vege- tables	Total fruits and vege- tables
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	District Total	**53**	**42**	**317**	**7**	**1,355**	**315**	**1,670**	**6,690**	**10,425**
1	Bhavnagar	50	8	91	.	..	175	175	507	1,186
2	Botad .			16	.	75	.	75	314	409
3	Gadhada .		.	1	7	..	95	95	509	564
4	Gariadhar	.	..	..	..	17	.	17	17	30
5	Gogha ..	.	34	178	..	49	40	89	839	1,551
6	Kundla .				.	205	4	209	290	649
7	Mahuva .	.		8	.	501	.	501	962	1,905
8	Palitana	3	.	7	.	210		210	340	450
9	Sihor		.	11		116	.	116	316	855
10	Talaja ..	..		..	.	161	.	161	2,516	2,683
11	Umrala .			5	.	21	.	21	32	66
12	Vallabhipur	.		.		..	1	1	48	77

STATEMENT IV·19

Area under Fodder Crops by Taluka/Mahal, 1960-61

Sl. No	Taluka Mahal	Lucerne	Hot weather *Jowar*	Guinea Grass	Grass and Babuls	Others	Total fodder crops
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	District Total	**1,445**	**153**	**8.151**	**60,115**	**30,655**	**100,519**
1	Bhavnagar .	..		.	6,661		6,661
2	Botad ..	.	..		4,798	.	4,798
3	Gadhada ..	.	.	..	4,451	2,739	7,189
4	Gariadhar ..	.	.	.	..	3,753	3,753
5	Gogha ..	660	.		11,785	.	12,445
6	Kundla ..	288	153			17,972	18,413
7	Mahuva .	.	.	.	12,905	5,870	18,775
8	Palitana			..	6,998		6,998
9	Sihor		.	7,579	..	..	7,579
10	Talaja .	..	.	..	12,043	..	12,043
11	Umrala .	359	..	..	474	263	1,096
12	Vallabhipur ..	138	..	572	..	59	769

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·20

Total Out-turn of Principal Crops in tons by Taluka/Mahal 1960-61

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Rice	Wheat	*Jowar* Rubi	*Jowar* Kharif	*Jowar* Total	*Bajri*	Maize	Little Millet or *Kalthi*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	District Total	2.573	27,541	327	11,220	11,553	12,729	1·0	46
1	Bhavnagar	40	1,449	.	710	710	18	..	..
2	Botad	341	1,607		1.405	1.405	882	.	..
3	Gadhada	182	2,507		632	632	450	..	..
4	Gariadhar	308	1,372		2,240	2,240	1,035	0.5	..
5	Gogha	37	375	32	1,088	1 120	696		
6	Kundla	217	1.778		1,109	1,109	2,826	..	..
7	Mahuva	356	503	74	341	415	3,029	0.3	46
8	Palitana	220	315		779	779	1,337	.	
9	Sihor	79	1,783		635	635	569	.	
10	Talaja	559	1,202	135	1.557	1,692	1,831	0.2	
11	Umrala			86	730	816	56		..
12	Vallabhipur	225	14,560				.		..

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Gram	Green gram or *Mug*	*Tur*	Black gram (*Adad*)	Horse gram	*Masur*	Total food grains	Sugar-cane	Chillies
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	District Total	59 33	180	1	534 5	92	40	34.394 15	35.998·33	1.669
1	Bhavnagar	6	1		.		.		12	11
2	Botad	7	21	...	101		..	..	7,803	201
3	Gadhada	.	4	.	2	...	25	.	1,079	22
4	Gariadhar	24	5 5				..	.	12,009	730
5	Gogha	3	17	.	3 5	21	15	...	304 33	89
6	Kundla	4	10		124	44	..	6,142	3,705	55
7	Mahuva	0 13	32		208	.	...	4,592·13	1,287	..
8	Palitana	8	1	1	1	17	.	2,698	6,273	243
9	Sihor	2	18	..	1	10	...	...	1,022	318
10	Talaja	2	40		94	.	..	5.510 2	1,708	..
11	Umrala				...	..	..	..	.	.
12	Vallabhipur	4·2	1 5		..	...	..	15,462	76	..

Source :

Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat

STATEMENT IV·28

Livestock by Taluka/Mahal, 1961

Cattle

Sl. No	Taluka/Mahal	Males over 3 years: Used for breeding only	Males over 3 years: Other males over 3 years	Females over 3 years: Breeding cows	Females over 3 years: Other cows over 3 years	Young stock	Total cattle
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	District Total	**841**	**151,366**	**96,788**	**649**	**97,842**	**347,486**
1	Botad	23	11,671	8,206	137	7,891	27,928
2	Mahuva	24	22,320	12,928	35	15,354	50,661
3	Gogha	27	10,077	6,836	74	6,232	23,246
4	Umrala	22	7,211	4,264	..	4,633	16,130
5	Gariadhar	377	10,075	4,834	213	5,034	20,533
6	Vallabhipur	16	7,155	4,272	..	4,735	16,178
7	Sihor	53	10,097	8,297	5	8,839	27,291
8	Kundla	41	20,772	13,304	15	13,451	47,583
9	Gadhada	48	13,957	9,854	33	10,356	34,248
10	Palitana	67	11,353	8,620	35	8,651	28,726
11	Bhavnagar	120	8,696	8,250	13	6,304	23,383
12	Talaja	23	17,982	7,123	89	6,362	31,579

Buffaloes

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Males over 3 years: Used for breeding only	Males over 3 years: Other males over 3 years	Females over 3 years: Breeding cows	Females over 3 years: Other cows over 3 years	Young Stock	Total Buffaloes	Total Bovine	Total Sheep
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	District Total	**652**	**503**	**79,485**	**1,280**	**54,019**	**135,839**	**483,325**	**195,146**
1	Botad	36	29	3,855	178	3,715	7,813	15,741	11,965
2	Mahuva	137	38	13,672	119	9,098	23,064	73,725	30,202
3	Gogha	60	73	6,478	143	3,713	10,467	33,713	15,425
4	Umrala	13	21	2,608	63	2,261	4,966	21,096	8,360
5	Gariadhar	34	47	4,504	259	3,113	7,957	28,490	11,980
6	Vallabhipur	15	72	3,110	16	2,622	5,835	20,013	2,794
7	Sihor	43	23	5,025	70	3,737	8,898	36,189	19,857
8	Kundla	75	31	9,406	11	6,808	16,331	63,914	21,641
9	Gadhada	18	36	3,649	33	3,509	7,245	41,493	17,257
10	Palitana	53	31	6,297	23	4,324	10,728	39,454	18,124
11	Bhavnagar	48	57	6,978	59	4,060	11,202	34,585	6,872
12	Talaja	120	46	13,853	256	7,059	21,333	52,912	30,669

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad

STATEMENT IV·28—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Total Goats	Horses and Ponies: Males over 3 years	Horses and Ponies: Females over 3 years	Horses and Ponies: Young stock	Horses and Ponies: Total Horses and Ponies	Mules
1	2	17	18	19	20	21	22
	District Total	**113,779**	**1,918**	**4,811**	**3,687**	**10,411**	**145**
1	Botad ..	12,032	98	269	299	666	..
2	Mahuva .	9,799	422	793	682	1,897	42
3	Gogha ..	9,065	101	348	253	702	25
4	Umrala .	5,487	27	154	116	297	10
5	Gariadhar ..	5,451	135	337	327	799	9
6	Vallabhipur ..	3,831	47	189	76	312	..
7	Sihor .	9,872	73	243	189	505	8
8	Kundla	15,948	232	645	438	1,315	2
9	Gadhada .	13,963	125	610	380	1,115	...
10	Palitana ..	10,797	158	434	347	939	5
11	Bhavnagar .	10,228	192	187	97	476	44
12	Talaja ..	7,306	303	602	483	1,388	..

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Donkeys	Camels	Pigs	Total Live-stock	Poultry: Fowls, Hens, Cocks and Chicken	Poultry: Ducks Drakes and Duck-lings	Poultry: Others	Poultry: Total Poultry
1	2	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	District Total	**5,153**	**150**	..	**808,109**	**20,865**	**411**	**6**	**21,282**
1	Botad ..	437	12	...	60,853	1,179	329	5	1,513
2	Mahuva ...	571	15	...	116,251	3,232	...	..	3,232
3	Gogha ...	249	22	...	59,201	1,625	10	..	1,635
4	Umrala ...	138	7	...	35,395	433	2	—	435
5	Gariadhar —	431	13	..	47,173	885	..	..	885
6	Vallabhipur ...	176	..	..	29,126	314	2	..	316
7	Sihor ..	483	4	..	66,918	1,321	...	..	1,321
8	Kundla ...	715	11	..	103,546	2,687	14	..	2,701
9	Gadhada ..	409	4	...	74,241	538	..	1	539
10	Palitana ..	348	28	..	69,695	1,146	15	..	1,161
11	Bhavnagar ...	456	31	..	52,692	6,071	39	...	6,110
12	Talaja —	740	3	...	93,018	1,434	—	—	1,434

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Old-time Industries

Vallabhipur was a prosperous centre of trade and commerce during the Maitraka period. Among the industries that flourished in their dominions during the early days of the kingdom, " polishing of carnelians may easily be said to have ranked in the first place. Other industries that may be mentioned are spinning and weaving, masonry and carpentry, iron smelting, jewellery, brassware and potteries. The gold and silver vessels of the period were outstanding for their exquisite workmanship, while the arts of printing and painting, colouring and dyeing, especially tye-dyeing or *bandhani*, very popular in this part of the country, were also patronised. Other articles produced there included incense, mirrors and toilet requisites such as cosmetics, scents and collyrium."[1] The regulation of trade and industries was probably managed by guilds, which served the purpose of protecting the interests of the indigenous traders and craftsmen against foreign competitiors.[2]

Industrial development in the modern sense of the term had begun in the Bhavnagar district in the last century but the growth was mainly confined to the State of Bhavnagar in general and the city of Bhavnagar in particular. In several other centres such as Mahuva, Kundla, Palitana, Botad, etc., a few industrial units were established during the last 40 years but no other area could properly be described as having been industrialised as now understood. The Bhavnagar State which comprised the major portion of the territories of the district had contributed substantially towards industrial development. Among the major factories the State had to its credit 4 cotton textile mills, 2 chemical works, one bone and fertiliser company, one rubber works, one industrial match manufacturing company, 10 cotton and ginning factories and 29 oil mills. The industrial development was later hampered owing to the customs policy of the Government of India when the Customs Cordon at Viramgam was in operation. In addition to these industries, crafts and cottage industries such as wooden and ivory toys of Mahuva, copper and brasswares and snuff manufacturing of Sihor, blankets of Savarkundla and Gadhada and scales making at Savarkundla, etc., were also gaining in popularity. " Some of the products of crafts and cottage industries enjoyed wide patronage of the court but the growing menace

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1. Virji K. J., *Ancient History of Saurashtra*, p. 220

2. *Ibid.*, p. 221

of machine goods and detrimental consequences of fiscal policy of Government of India, which allowed these imported machine made goods a free and unrestricted market in Kathiawar had caused them to share the fate of annihilation."[1] Industrial development received fresh impetus after Independence. With a view to intensifying development programme in the small scale sector the Saurashtra Cottage Industries Board was constituted in 1949 and the Saurashtra Small Scale Industries and Handicrafts Board was established in 1953 by the former Government of Saurashtra.[2]

ON WAY TO INDUSTRIALISATION

Industrialisation is quite a recent phase in the economic development of the country and its various regions. Till the latter half of the 19th century, the economic structure mainly consisted of agriculture, with its complementary and ancillary avocations in the form of various crafts and handicrafts plied by local artisans and craftsmen, some of whom acquired the highest degree of perfection and artistic excellence. Even to this day, agriculture occupies a very predominant place in the economy of the State and the district providing means of livelihood to 61.50 per cent of the working population. The second half of the past century, however, saw the beginning of some industrial activity in the modern sense of the term. In Gujarat and Saurashtra, the first step in the direction of industrialisation aided by mechanical devices was taken in the textile industry as cotton happened to be the most important raw material grown in this part of the country. Mechanisation was first introduced in ginning and pressing factories followed by textile mills, either spinning or both spinning and weaving. Bhavnagar State, of which the present district of Bhavnagar is mostly formed, was not slow to realise the need for industrialisation with the result that a number of ginning and pressing factories and a textile mill came into being in the State as a result of the progressive policy followed by the Darbar and encouragement in the shape of various concessions given for the starting of new industries. Despite the progressive policy of the State, the local mercantile community appears to have been more commercially minded than industrially minded for the simple and natural reason that having a fairly large sea coast the ports of Bhavnagar and Mahuva presented very good opportunities for the development of trade and commerce both inland and foreign. In the initial stages local talent was somewhat reluctant to venture at new industries. But the industrialists from outside the State were quick enough to realise the advantages of investing their capital in Princely areas and started a number of new industries besides textiles, viz., rubber goods, art silk, rayon, ceramics, bone meal, salt, etc. Later on the local talent entered the field and started such industries, as extraction of oil,

1. TRIVEDI A. B., Present Industries of Kathiawar, *Journal of the Gujarat Research Society*, January, p. 27, 1940

2. Description of the handicrafts is given in a later section on "Industrial Arts"

manufacture of vanaspati, match, chemicals, paints and dyes, light engineering works such as rolling mills and iron factories, etc. The pace of industrialisation was accelerated by successive World Wars but the real impetus was received only after Independence when the national industrial policy was enunciated and various schemes for the promotion of industrial growth and development in the country formulated with a view to remove the existing imbalance between agriculture on the one hand and non-agricultural pursuits on the other, and raise the standard of living of the people. In the result a number of new industries have come into existence in this district besides expansion of those that already existed in the past. Mechanisation has been increasingly resorted to as evidenced by the ever-increasing demand for power and the replacement of old established crafts manually operated by those worked mechanically. The handicrafts and small industries which are no less important in the context of industrialisation and employment have also had their share of development through various measures the government have taken for their expansion and promotion by adopting modern means of manufacture and use of power. There has thus been a diversification of industries by bringing into existence both in the small as well as large scale sector new concerns which have ample opportunities for successful operation either through the exploitation of local resources or by the utilisation of raw materials procured from outside. This process has been further encouraged by the development of transport facilities and means of communications developed within the district and outside in recent times.

Power

The development and economic prosperity of a region are judged by its industrial and agricultural growth. Power is the prime necessity and the generation of power and its consumption by industry and agriculture are the indices of its development. All power generated in the district is thermal power. In the year 1948 there were three privately owned power houses located at Bhavnagar, Sihor and Gadhada in addition to one government owned power house at Palitana. One more privately owned power house, viz., Savarkundla Power House was established in the district in 1951. The demand for power supply was on the increase and almost all the power houses experienced great difficulty in coping with the demand. The State Government accorded high priority to the problem of generating adequate power supply and a Power Generation Board was appointed by the former Government of Saurashtra to evolve a comprehensive scheme for the purpose. A programme of power development was drawn up in stages and the preliminary preparations for launching the first phase were completed by 1950. The First Five Year Plan which broadly covered the first phase envisaged expansion of power houses at Bhavnagar and Palitana. The programme for the Second Plan envisaged in addition to the expansion

of the nursery stations at Mahuva, Rajula,[1] Lathi[2] and Botad. The programme consisted of the construction of 33 kW. and 11 kW. transmission lines and electrification of 41 villages in Bhavnagar district. To speed up the implementation of this programme a statutory body, namely, the Saurashtra Electricity Board was constituted in 1954. During the Third Five Year Plan, Bhavnagar Electric Supply Co. Ltd., was permitted by the Board to extend the capacity of power station at Bhavnagar by adding one set of 4,000 kW. capacity. With the construction of Dhuvaran Power Station, electric power is also to be supplied to the district from this Station by 132 kW. double circuit line from Dhuvaran through 3 × 30 m V A transformers station at Gondal. A smaller sub-station is installed also at Dhasa. The total installed capacity of all the power stations which was 13,790.6 kW. in 1957-58 increased to 16,881 kW. in 1961-62. The units of electricity generated have also increased from 18,196,910 kWh. in 1957-58 to 39,958,000 kWh. in 1961-62.

The statement given below gives figures of consumption of electricity according to purpose in million kWh. in 1950-51, 1955-56, 1960-61 and 1961-62.

Consumption of Electricity by Purpose

(IN MILLION KWH.)

Year	Domestic consumption	Commercial light and small power	Industrial	Other purposes	Total utilisation of electricity
1	2	3	4	5	6
1950–51 ..	1.915	0.647	2.240	0.924	5.726
1955–56 ..	2.535	1.116	6.638	0.839	11.128
1960–61 ..	4.318	1.183	17.298	4.479	27.278
1961–62 ..	4.230	1.247	20.989	3.692	30.167

Source :

1. Census of India 1961, Part I-A (iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*
2. *Statistical Abstract*, Bhavnagar District, 1961-62

The main source of power supply in the district is Gujarat Electricity Board and Bhavnagar Electric Supply Company. The foregoing table indicates that the total utilisation of electricity has increased from one quinquennium to another. In the total utilisation of electricity, industrial power naturally claims the largest share. Domestic consumption seems to vary and is partly dependent upon the extent of urbanisation and partly upon the availability of power. It claimed 33.44 per cent in 1950-51, as against 14.06 per cent in 1961-62. Industrial power claimed 39.12 in 1950-51 which rose to 69.51 per cent in 1961-62.

1. Transferred to Amreli district by Bombay Government Resolution R. D. No. TLC-3858 C, dated 19th June, 1959
2. *Ibid.*

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Any improvement in agriculture and industry should be considered only as a means to an end. The social aspect of the life of the community in the rural areas is no less important. Electricity has come to be accepted as a yardstick for a proper assessment of the progress in various fields of economy. Viewed in this context the scheme of rural electrification assumes great significance. The table given below shows the progress in the electrification of towns and villages.

Year	Towns	Villages	Total
1	2	3	4
1950-51	2	..	2
1960-61	6	22	28
1961-62	12	40	52

Source :

1. Census of India 1961, Part I-A (iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*
2. *Statistical Abstract*, Bhavnagar District, 1961-62

While in 1950-51 it was the urban areas only which were for the most part electrified, increasing attention came to be paid to rural electrification during the period of the Second Five Year Plan. Under the programme for rural electrification the target of 41 villages proposed to be electrified was very nearly reached as will be evident from the number of villages electrified being 40 by 1961-62.

KIND OF POWER OR FUEL USED

In every 1,000 establishments that are in operation in the district, 326 are worked by various forms of power or fuel and 674 without power. The following table shows the distribution of establishments and persons employed according to kind of power or fuel used in 1961, as returned by the Housing and Establishment Census.

Distribution of Establishments and Persons Employed According to kind of Power or Fuel used, 1961

Total/ Rural/ Urban	Kind of power or fuel used	Number of units	Number of persons employed	Number of persons employed per unit
1	2	3	4	5
Total ..	**Electricity**	**440**	**5,631**	**12.80**
	Liquid Fuel	**539**	**1,704**	**3.16**
	Coal, Wood and Bagasse ..	**638**	**2,786**	**4.37**
	Other Power	**7**	**15**	**2.14**
	No Power	**3,363**	**8,531**	**2.54**
Rural ..	Electricity	18	65	3.61
	Liquid Fuel	426	1,123	2.64
	Coal, Wood and Bagasse ..	316	1,049	3.32
	Other Power	..	..	..
	No Power	2,093	4,090	2.24
Urban ..	Electricity	422	5,566	3.19
	Liquid Fuel	113	581	5.14
	Coal, Wood and Bagasse ..	322	1,737	5.39
	Other Power	7	15	2.14
	No Power	1,270	3,841	3.02

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat. Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables* (E-Series Tables)

Out of a total number of 4,987 units, 3,363 do not use any power or fuel. Of the rest, 440 establishments are worked by electrical power, 539 by liquid fuel, 638 by coal, wood and bagasse and 7 by other power. The statement further goes to show that among the various types of power used, electricity is the least in demand and liquid fuel the most in rural areas. But in towns, it is electricity followed by coal, wood and bagasse, that takes precedence over other forms of power used in the urban establishments operating in the district where mechanisation is being increasingly resorted to to replace manual power employed hithertofore. The greater use of liquid fuel in villages is very well accounted for by the growing use of water pumps for well irrigation as well as other factories which came into being when electricity was not in use. Units worked without power claim the maximum number in rural areas but in urban centres it is electrically operated establishments which offer maximum employment. Coal, wood and bagasse claim a second place among the different forms of power used in towns, and the number of persons employed. The predominence, however, of no power in the economy of the district reveals the persistence of rural craftsmen and artisans, who are in equal demand both in rural as well as urban areas, though comparatively greater in the former than in the latter.

Among the various types of industrial establishments, those which have maximum use of electricity are food and textile industries. Electrically operated industries which are important as giving maximum opportunities of employment are cotton spinning and weaving in mills, followed by manufacture of sundry hardwares and engineering products, production of edible fats and oils, repairing and servicing of motor vehicles, product of rice, *atta*, flour, etc., manufacture of other wood and allied products, sawing and planing of wood, manufacture of brass and bell metal products, power looms, manufacture and assembling of machinery except textile machinery, and all types of printing. Industries using liquid fuel and giving maximum employment are production of rice, *atta*, flour, etc. But it is the manufacture of sundry hardwares and engineering products that rank first among industries worked by coal, wood and bagasse. Industries important from the point of employment in units which do not use power or fuel and are manually worked are, as already seen, the crafts in which traditional artisans like carpenters, cobblers, and shoe-makers, tailors, weavers, potters, and *bidi* workers are engaged. These figures go to establish the pace of mechanisation, gradual elimination of manual power and increasing demand of electricity in preference to other forms of power or fuel like coal, wood and bagasse and liquid fuel. It is worthy of note that the industries which have greater use of power or fuel, as compared to no power are manufacture of sundry hardwares and engineering products, production of rice, *atta*, etc., production of other food products, manufacture of brass and bell metal products, manufacture and assembling of machinery except textile machinery, manufacture of soap and other washing and cleaning

compounds. These industries indicate the direction in which increasing use of machinery and power has been resorted to in recent times, by replacing manual power which was the principal motive power for village and cottage industries at the commencement of the present century.

MINING

The known mineral wealth of Bhavnagar district is substantial though less diversified than in a few other mineral districts of the State, viz., Kaira and Jamnagar. The pattern of mineral production is, therefore, simple. The minerals available in the district include building stone, moulding sand, fire lime-stone, road metal, etc., clay and fuller's earth, bentonite and salt. The seacoast from Mahuva to Miani is a lime-stone bearing area. Moulding sand is another important mineral and it is very suitable for cast iron and other moulds and is extensively exported to Bombay, Culcutta and other industrial areas. Bentonite in the district is equally important and is exported to Bombay and other places.

From the view point of the total value of minerals produced, the State as a whole claimed in 1961-62 Rs. 5.84 crores, against Rs. 3·77 lakhs only in the district. In other words it did not form even one per cent of the total value of the State production. The sub-joined statement gives figures of mineral production for the year 1961-62 by Taluka/Mahal.

STATEMENT V·1

Mineral Production

(YEAR OF REFERENCE 1961-62)

Sl. No.	Taluka/ Mahal	Estimated production: Moulding sand (Tons)	Fuller's earth (Tons)	Building materials stone, etc. (Brass)	Fire clay (Tons)	Bentonite and other clays (Tons)	Total number of quarries	Total number of persons employed	Total (receipts) value in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Bhavnagar	4,500	1,500	15,000	800	1,850	28	200	118,400
2	Botad	..	..	10,000	..	..	35	110	40,000
3	Gadhada	.	..	2,000	..	..	27	90	7,000
4	Gariadhar	..	..	1,800	..	..	20	45	10,000
5	Gogha	200	.	1,000	..	2,000	8	60	15,000
6	Kundla	..	..	4,000	..	..	14	50	20,000
7	Mahuva	..	..	6,500	..	1,000	26	80	35,000
8	Palitana	..	..	4,500	..	..	28	90	30,000
9	Sihor	.	..	10,000	..	...	45	100	50,000
10	Talaja	.	..	3,000	..	1,000	27	75	18,000
11	Umrala	..	..	2,000	..	..	18	45	12,000
12	Vallabhipur	..	..	3,500	.	..	16	35	22,000
	District Total	**4,700**	**1,500**	**63,300**	**800**	**5,850**	**292**	**980**	**377,400**

Source :

Quarry Inspector, Bhavnagar

STATEMENT V·2

Quantity, Value and Labour Employed in 'Mineral Production', 1964

Sl. No.	Mineral	Production (in tonnes)	Value (in Rs.)	Average daily number of labourers employed
1	Calcite ..	921	7,000	37
2	Chalk ..	2,536	13,000	9
3	Whitting clay ..	30	2,000	3
4	Lime-stone ..	305,000	457,500	3,000
5	Fuller's earth ..	1,500	12,000	150
6	Bentonite ..	10,000	60,000	700
	Total ..	319,987	551,500	3,899

Source :

Government of Gujarat, *Annual Administration Report of the Directorate of Geology and Mining* for the year 1964-65

An analysis of the minerals produced in the district in 1961 and 1964 as given in Statements V.1 and V.2 shows that total value of minerals produced rose from Rs. 3.77 lakhs in 1961 to Rs. 5.51 lakhs in 1964. Of the total mineral production of 319,987 metric tonnes in 1964, lime-stone alone accounted for 305,000 tonnes.

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation

Pursuant to the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956, the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., a public sector enterprise in the State, has been established in 1963 with the object of exploiting the field of mineral development. The Corporation will play a decisive role in the development of mineral-based industries in the State. While it has no ideological objection to collaborate with the private sector, its primary aim is to act as a body interested in setting up and regulating some mineral-based industries in such a way as to ensure maximum benefits to the public of the State. It has not undertaken any such work in Bhavnagar district so far.

The 1961 Census

Establishments

The 1961 Census has thrown voluminous data relating to the economic condition of the people (i) by undertaking for the first time a complete census of industrial establishments in the country and (ii) by so enlarging the scope of questionnaire on the individual enumeration slip, as to yield a large number of economic tables. published in its general as well as household series. According to the Housing and Establishments Census, Bhavnagar district has returned a total number of 4,987 establishments engaged in the production of goods and employing 18,667 persons in the various branches of industry operated on household as well as non-household basis.

Statement V·3 given at the end of the Chapter shows the importance of manufacture of sundry hardwares, including various engineering products, food processing industries, manufacture of wood and allied products, various branches of textile industry including making of garments, cotton weaving in handlooms and powerlooms, textile mills, cotton ginning, cleaning, pressing and baling factories, etc. The other industries worthy of note are manufacture of shoes and other leather footware, jewellery, tanning and finishing of hides and skins, production of edible fats and oils, and manufacture of earthenware and earthen pottery. There is thus an appreciable degree of diversification in industries owing to the encouragement given by the State Government for the starting of new industries and expansion of existing ones, in pursuance of the policy of intense industrialisation to relieve the pressure on agriculture, which is increasing day by day as a result of the continuous rise in the growth rate in the State and the district.

Household *vs.* Non-household Industries

Another Statement V·4 given at the end of the Chapter classifies agriculture, mining, quarrying and manufacturing industries into household and non-household industries.

The total number of workers returned as employed in all the industrial divisions account for 167,381 persons, of whom 38,155 work on household basis and 129,226 on non-household basis. Manufacturing industries claim 45,285, of whom 19,824 are workers at household industries and 25,461 in non-household industries. These figures illustrate the importance of textiles as engaging the maximum number of persons 15,746 in textile cotton and textile miscellaneous, of whom 9,424 work at non-household industry and 6,322 at household industry. Industrial enterprise which was initially confined to textile industries later extended to manufacture of chemicals and chemical products, non-metallic mineral products other than petroleum and coal, basic metals and their products, except machinery and transport equipment, miscellaneous manufacturing industries, etc. While factories and workshops account for 4,987 or 6.22 per cent of the total units operating in the State as a whole, persons employed by them number 18,667 and account for 3.77 per cent of the total working in the factories and workshops of the State.

Household Industries

An indication about the types of household industries thriving in the district can be had from the Statement V·5 given at the end of the Chapter showing sample households engaged only in household industry, classified by principal household industries in Bhavnagar district, based on 20 per cent sample.

37.49 per cent of the households, engaged only in household industries work at agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and hunting, 99 per cent

of whom, work at livestock and animal husbandry, including hunting. The next in order of importance are manufacturing industries, textiles being the most important among them, followed by wood crafts, leather and leather products and non-metallic mineral products other than petroleum and coal. The household basis of work in these industries discloses the importance of village crafts plied in the households, mostly in rural areas. These are traditional crafts wherein the village artisans and craftsmen like weavers, carpenters, shoe-makers, blacksmiths, potters, etc., are engaged. Another important feature of household industries as at present constituted is the nature of employment offered by them. While a majority of them are single member establishments, the strength of those wherein two persons are engaged is fairly large as the assistance of the members of the household is an essential pre-requisite of a household industry. The strength of households employing more than 5 persons, the statement reveals, to be comparatively much less. Another significant feature of the household industry prevalent in the district is their greater concentration in rural areas as compared to towns where the number of such households is relatively less for the obvious reason that the traditional artisans are more in demand in villages than in towns, where the gradual mechanisation of industry has been eliminating them to a far greater extent than in the countryside.

THE TRENDS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The trends of industrial development during the quinquennium 1956-60 in the district are reflected in the number of factories and workers compared in Statement V·6 given at the end of the Chapter, extracted from the monograph "Location of Industries in Gujarat State, 1956-60", prepared and published by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics. The total number of factories has risen from 178 to 231 and the workers engaged therein from 11,992 to 13,526 an addition of 53 factories and 1,534 workers. The number of large scale establishments which was 30 in 1956 increased to 31 in 1960. Small scale establishments have, however, added 52 establishments to their number in 1956. But increase, in the number of workers in both the sectors is not the same. The workers in large scale establishments increased by 516 whereas small scale establishments registered an increase of 998 persons. The industries which have made substantial contribution to the provision of employment are (1) Spinning, Weaving and Finishing of Textiles (5,921), (2) Manufactures of miscellaneous Food Preparations (1,697), (3) Gins and Presses (1,016), (4) Manufacture of Machinery except electrical machinery (801), and (5) Manufacturing and repair of railroad equipment (613). Other industries which deserve mention are manufacture of rubber and rubber products, manufacture of metal products (except machinery and transport equipment) and manufacture of non-metallic minerals, cycle parts, sugar, confectionery, cocoa and chocolate, cordage rope and twine, wood and cork, paper and paper board, printing, boat-building, musical instruments, etc. The growth of all these industries reveal the diversi-

fication of industries and the direction in which it is likely to expand in future.

AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES

Among the numerous crops raised in the district, cotton, oil seeds and foodgrains are of major industrial importance. Much of the industrial development which has already taken place in the district is based directly or indirectly on these raw materials, as evidenced by the yield of crops of industrial importance given below.

Name of the crop	Year 1958-59 Area in acres	Yield in tons
1 Groundnut	593,700	134,100
2 Cotton	143,300	26,100
3 Sesamum	78,200	2,800
4 Sugar-cane	6,600	10,700

Source :
Gujarat State, *Audyogic Ayojan, Bhavnagar Jillo*, p.2

LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES

The progress made by the large scale industrial units in the district is reflected in the results of Annual Survey of Industries which was started in the year 1957. Factories employing 50 or more workers using power and 100 or more workers without power are covered on complete enumeration basis. The main features of industrial growth in Bhavnagar district is compared with Gujarat State in the table given below.

Large Scale Factories, 1960

Items	Units	Bhavnagar district	Gujarat State	Percentage of Bhavnagar district to Gujarat State
1	2	3	4	5
1 Number of factories ..	Number	30	749	4·0
2 Productive capital ..	Rs. in ('000)	54,765	1,479,744	3.70
3 Persons employed ..	Number	9,827	282,523	3.48
4 Output	Rs. in ('000)	106,158	2,705,475	3.92
5 Value added by manufacture	Rs. in ('000)	25,928	876,278	2.96

Source:
Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Vol. III, No. 4, October–December, 1963

The table shows that though Bhavnagar district has some share in the large sector of industries, its contribution in terms of establishments, capital, employment and output is comparatively less and varies from 3 to 4 per cent only. The major large scale industries are food including oil, manufacturing, spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles, cotton ginning and pressing, manufacturing of non-metallic products, manufacture of transport equipment, etc.

Registered Factories

The total number of registered factories according to the returns furnished by the Chief Inspector of Factories is found to be 248, of which 10 are Government and Local Fund Factories and 238 are other factories. Their break-up according to the industrial classification is given in the statement that follows together with the average number of workers employed daily Among other factories 226 were working in 1961 and 12 were closed.

STATEMENT V.7

Registered Factories and Workers, 1961

Sl. No.	Classification	Number of registered factories	Number of working factories	Number of reporting factories	Average number of workers employed daily
1	2	3	4	5	6
	I—Government and Local Fund Factories				
1	Printing, publishing and allied industries	1	1	1	102
2	Machinery (except electrical machinery)	1	1	1	173
3	Transport equipment .	2	2	2	685
4	Electricity, gas and steam .	4	4	4	63
5	Water and sanitary services ..	2	2	2	27
	Total	10	10	10	1,050
	II—All Other Factories				
1	Processes allied to agriculture (Gins and presses) . ..	35	34	34	969
2	Food except beverages	50	49	45	1,673
3	Tobacco	6	6	6	156
4	Textiles	27	25	25	5,886
5	Wood and cork except furniture ..	9	8	8	145
6	Paper and paper products ..	2	1	1	21
7	Printing, publishing and allied industries	8	8	8	88
8	Rubber and rubber products ..	1	1	1	388
9	Chemical and chemical products .	10	9	9	398
10	Non-metallic mineral products (except products of petroleum and coal)	23	22	20	1,036
11	Basic metal industries .. .	5	5	5	152
12	Metal products (except machinery and transport equipment) ..	17	17	16	314
13	Machinery (except electrical machinery)	34	30	28	679
14	Transport equipment .. .	3	3	3	83
15	Miscellaneous industries	6	6	6	201
16	Electricity, gas and steam	2	2	2	143
	Total	238	226	217	12,332

Note :

Average number of workers employed daily is shown for the working factories.

Source :

Chief Inspector of Factories, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The most important from the point of number of registered units are food except beverages (50), processes allied to agriculture (35), machinery (except electrical machinery) (34), textiles (27), non-metallic mineral products (except products of petroleum and coal) (23), metal products (except machinery and transport equipment) (17), and chemical and chemical products (10). The establishments important from the point of employment as determined by the average number of workers employed daily are in order textiles, food except beverages, non-metallic mineral products, gins and presses, machinery, chemical and chemical products, rubber and rubber products and metal products.

Government and Local Fund factories include one Government Printing Press, Port, Railway and Municipal Workshops, 4 power houses, one filter house and sewage works. The industries in operation cover a fairly wide range of products manufactured in Bhavnagar district, based either on local raw material like cotton, groundnut, salt, structural clay and stone, moulding sand, etc., or others like tobacco, metals such as brass, copper and iron, wood and chemicals imported from outside. Cotton textiles is the most important branch of industry which includes cotton ginning and pressing factories, textile mills, both spinning and weaving, weaving factories, other textiles like silk and rayon (closed), hosiery works, thread works, etc. The extensive growth of groundnut in recent times has been responsible for a number of oil mills located mostly at Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Savarkundla, Gadhada, Botad and Palitana. The Bhavnagar Vegetable Products in Bhavnagar city also manufactures vanaspati and hydrogenerated oil. The Bhavnagar Public Dairy Limited is one of the public dairies started by the former Government of Saurashtra one in each district. It has been functioning satisfactority despite initial difficulties which such a new venture has inevitably to face. The long coastline that Bhavnagar has, has been instrumental in the successful working of the Bhavnagar Salt and Industrial Works Ltd., Bhavnagar. Sihor which is long noted for its snuff manufacture has three such works, besides one at Bhavnagar. The district has about 8 printing presses. Starting of a number of saw mills and a thriving trade in timber have been greatly facilitated by imports from outside by sea. Besides, chemicals, paints and dyes, fertilisers and rubber goods, structural industries, such as manufacture of bricks, concrete works, hume pipes, stone crushing, quarrying also claim an important share in the industrial economy of the district. Iron foundries and still works, rolling works, trunk factories, small engineering works, manufacture of electrical goods, textile accessories, such as shuttles, bobins, pickers, etc., evidence that the branches in which industrial progress has been taking place are diverse and varied. An era of intense industrialisation awaits the district which will shortly have one of the most important units established at Bhavnagar for the manufacture of machine tools at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 crores.

The particulars of the most important among large scale industries are given below.

New Jehangir Vakil Mills Ltd., Bhavnagar

The beginning of a new era of large scale textile production in Kathiawar may be said to have commenced in 1873 when in consultation with the Bhavnagar joint Administrators Messrs E. H. Percival and Gaurishanker Oza, a spinning and weaving mills was started at Bhavnagar. It was registered in Bombay under the name and style of Bhavnagar Mills and Company Ltd. In 1879 on account of bankruptcy of Messrs Forbes & Co., the management was vested in the Board of Directors and in 1881 the company was reconstituted under the name of Bhavnagar Cotton Manufacturing Company. It was renamed New Jehangir Vakil Mills when the management changed hands in 1919. It is a composite textile mills having both spinning and weaving plants. The mill had 714 looms and 32,284 spindles, employed 2,371 persons and disbursed Rs. 4,614,244 as wages and salaries, in 1961. It manufactures cotton yarn and grey bleached and coloured piece-goods. In 1961 it manufactured 4,078,628 lb. of cloth valued at Rs. 27,125,408. The cloth is exported to Ahmedabad, Bombay, Raipur, Calcutta Bangalore and other districts of Saurashtra region.

Mahalaxmi Mills Ltd., Bhavnagar

This unit came into existence in 1932 and is engaged in manufacturing cotton piece-goods and art silk cloth. It has 480 looms and 20,756 spindles, besides 200 silk looms. With a paid-up capital of Rs. 58 lakhs, it provides employment to 2,296 persons. It disbursed Rs. 4,156,073 as wages and salaries in 1961. The products are exported to various centres such as Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and other parts of the country.

The Master Silk Mills Private Ltd., Bhavnagar

The Master Silk Mills is a silk weaving undertaking having 180 silk looms. Originally an allied concern of Mahalaxmi Mills Ltd., it now works as a separate undertaking. It provided employment to 336 persons, had a fixed capital of Rs. 2,052,000, and disbursed Rs. 663,088 as wages and salaries to its workers and salaried staff in 1961. It manufactured 3,776,392 yards of art silk cloth valued at Rs. 4,172,407. The products are exported to Bombay and Delhi.

Bhavnagar Vegetable Products Ltd., Bhavnagar

Oil seeds are extensively cultivated in Bhavnagar district, groundnut being the chief variety. There are about 578,900 acres under this crop. On account of the larger production and heavy demand of groundnut oil in the country, the oil milling and crushing industry has become a flourishing economic activity. Bhavnagar Vegetable Products is a composite

unit manufacturing both vegetable ghee and de-oiled cake. The unit was started in 1948 with a paid-up capital of Rs. 25 lakhs. The unit has a hydrogenation plant with a total capacity of 70 tons of hydrogenated oil per day. It is equipped with a cuber, the latest type of expeller which crushes about 40 tons of oil seeds and produces 16 tons of oil per day. The unit provides employment to 454 persons and disburses wages and salaries to the tune of Rs. 595,610. Export of de-oiled groundnut cake was permitted by Government of India for the first time in 1955. The unit took advantage of this facility.

Bhavnagar Chemicals Works Ltd., Vartej

This unit also possesses a solvent extraction plant for manufacturing de-oiled cakes. The plant was installed in 1946 but started production in 1948. Oil cake has about 7-8 per cent of oil left in it. This oil goes waste. To save this wastage the plant has been set-up by the unit which extracts oil out of the cake by chemical solvents. Every ton of oil seeds crushed yields 0.66 ton of oil cake. The cake is useful both as fodder and manure. About 50 tons of oil cake is de-oiled and 3 tons of refined oil is produced daily. In 1961 the unit had paid-up capital of Rs. 14 lakhs, gave employment to 155 persons and disbursed Rs. 595,610 as wages and salaries. In addition to the work of extracting oil, the factory is also engaged in manufacturing soap and black oil. Its products are sent to Delhi, Bombay and to the United Kingdom outside India.

Associated Rubber Industries Ltd., Bhavnagar

Rubber enters into the manufacture of many essential goods such as tyres, tubes, shoes, belts, toys and waterproof fabrics, etc. The factory at Bhavnagar which produces canvas shoes and a variety of rubber goods was re-started in 1943. Prior to 1943 its proprietors, Messrs Nassur Haji Mowjee invited Japanese experts in the initial stages of construction and manufacture. The works possessed a full capacity of manufacturing 10,000 pairs per day. However, during those days as a result of the application of the Viramgam Customs Cordon against the Bhavnagar State the factory's goods became liable to heavy duties and the Kathiawar demand being very small the works had to be closed. It was subsequently taken over by Messrs Chinubhai Mahesh & Co., but stopped working owing to shortage of rubber supplies in the whole of the British empire. Thereafter, the works changed hands and were taken over by Associated Rubber Industries Ltd., in 1943. After Independence and formation of Saurashtra State, the importance of this industry was recognised. The factory employed 415 persons in 1961. It has a paid-up capital of Rs. 3 lakhs. It produced in 1961 179,145 pairs of footwear, 70,890 pairs of surgical gloves, 230,016 prophylactics, 27,902 metres aprons and 88,242 metres of rubber coats. The products are sold all over India. It

disbursed in 1961 wages and salaries to the extent of Rs. 445,195 to workers and salaried staff.

Bhavnagar Bone and Fertiliser Company, Bhavnagar

Bone meal is being used for making manure mixture to be supplied to cultivators. Raw bones do not make good manure as they are not readily absorbed by soil. The Bhavnagar Bone and Fertiliser Co., was started by Messrs Rustomjee and Ferozshah Dubash in 1934-35. It produces fertilisers from crushed bones. The factory employed 62 workers and disbursed Rs. 25,951 as wages and salaries. Various types of products it manufactures include such items as bone meal, bone grist, crushed bones leather meal and sinews meal. In 1961 it turned out 2,337 metric tons of these products valued at Rs. 587,900. Crushed bones were formerly exported to foreign countries, but are now used in the country.

Alcock Ashdown Co. Ltd. Bhavnagar

This engineering unit started in 1958 has been licensed to manufacture structural engineering items. Established with a paid-up capital of Rs. 2,617,583 it employed 55 persons in 1961 Its capacity to manufacture following items is :

Structurals	300 tons per month
Smithy	80 tons per month
Galvanising	300 tons per month
Boat-building (barges) 11 Nos.	30 tons per month

Its products are sold at Bhavnagar only.

Velo Industries, Bhavnagar

This unit was established in 1958 to manufacture bicycle chains. In 1961 it employed 101 persons and disbursed Rs. 113,850 as wages and salaries. It has invested Rs. 695,090 as fixed capital. The capacity of the unit to manufacture bicycle chains is 25,000 pieces per month. It exports chains to various important cities of India.

The Khodiyar Pottery Works Ltd., Sihor

Clay deposits of good quality are known to occur in Saurashtra region. China clay, ball clay, fire clay, quartz, lime-stone and sand stone are available in plenty in Saurashtra. Felspar, however, is brought from Rajasthan. In view of these facilities the Khodiyar Pottery Works was established in 1950. In 1965 it had a fixed capital of Rs. 937,770 and working capital of Rs. 590,663. The factory is engaged in the production

of cheap as well as good varieties of crockery, stoneware jars, sanitary-wares, etc. Its capacity for production of different products is :

		Capacity per month (in tons)
1	Stoneware crockery	50
2	Sanitary-wares	75
3	Stoneware white-glazed tiles	15
4	Stoneware bowls	75
5	Stoneware jars	25
6	Electric goods	25
7	Toys	5
8	Stoneware pipes	100
9	Fire bricks	200

The products are supplied to all parts of India.

Bhavnagar Salt and Industrial Works Ltd., Bhavnagar

The Bhavnagar Salt Works were established in 1943 with a paid-up capital of Rs. 500,000 which has gone up to Rs. 8 lakhs in 1965. The works are situated in close proximity to the west of the concrete jetty, Bhavnagar Port, at a distance of about 7 miles from the city. The potential capacity of the works is about 4,000,000 B. maunds. Their production is entirely exported by sea to Calcutta. In 1965 the factory employed 808 persons and disbursed Rs. 784.945 by way of wages and salaries to workers and salary earners.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

Since complete data regarding the distribution of small scale industries in the district are not available the results of the survey carried out by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics are summarised below, as they will be helpful in having some idea of the stage of development in this sector of industry. The survey was undertaken by the Bureau in all the districts of Gujarat except Dangs and was spread over two years, 1959-60 and 1960-61. It aims at (i) obtaining districtwise estimates of income of families engaged in selected cottage and small scale industries and (ii) collecting information on other related aspects such as employment, production and consumption of raw materials.[1]

While effecting a distinction between a cottage industry and small scale industry, the survey states that, "An establishment is classified as cottage industry if the number of persons engaged in it on any day during the year is 9 or less. If the number is 10 or more and not registered under Factories Act, the establishment is classified as a small scale establishment whether it is power operated or not. Ordinarily industrial units employing 10 or more workers and using power would be registered under the Factories Act. However, if at the time of the inquiry such a unit was not registered, it was included in the survey"[2].

1. *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. II, No. 1, January-March, 1962, p.
2. *Ibid* p. 1

The survey carried out was a sample survey covering the following sixteen industries in the cottage and small scale sectors.

1 Weaving
2 Dyeing and printing
3 Jari thread works
4 Blacksmithy
5 Metal works (silver, brass, copper and bell)
6 Carpentry
7 Cane and Bamboo products
8 Bricks and tiles
9 Other Potteries
10 Leather working and tanning
11 Oil pressing
12 Gur making
13 Bee keeping
14 Soap making
15 Match making and
16 Paddy husking

For the purpose of survey the centres were classified into strata A, B and C. Stratum 'A' is related to centres important for different industries, stratum 'B' to urban areas other than those covered by 'A' and stratum 'C' consisted of groups of 4 to 5 villages in the rest of the rural areas, from which about 4 per cent of the group villages were selected for the purpose of survey.

DISTRIBUTION OF ESTABLISHMENTS BY INDUSTRIES

There are in all 11,810 establishments in the 16 industries surveyed in the district out of which 11,633 (98.5 per cent) are in the cottage and 177 (1.5 per cent) in the small scale sector. Of the 16 selected industries in the district (1) leather working and tanning and (2) carpentry account for the largest number of establishments 2,062 and 1,925 respectively. Others in order of importance are, (3) weaving, (4) bricks and tiles, (5) potteries and (6) blacksmithy. Of these industries, those that go to make up the small scale sector are very few–18 in weaving, 1 in leather working and tanning. 14 in blacksmithy and 11 in metal.

POWER *vs.* NO POWER

Out of 11,633 cottage establishments only 474 (4.1 per cent) are power operated and 11,159 (95.9 per cent) are non-power operated. In the small scale sector 50 (28.2 per cent) establishments are power operated and 127 (71.8 per cent) are non-power operated.

EMPLOYMENT

The Statement V-8 given at the end of the Chapter shows the total employment in the small scale sector as well in the cottage industries sector. The total employment by both the sectors comes to 33,859 persons, out of whom 29,128 (86.0 per cent) are household persons and 4,733 (14.0 per cent) are outsiders. This shows that there are on an average 287 persons employed per 100 establishments (33,850). Correlating the total employment with the total population of the district (1,119,435) as returned at the Census of 1961, it is observed that the district provides employment to 40 persons per 1,000 as against 19 for the State as a whole.

STATEMENT V·9

Number of Establishments and Number of Persons Employed in Cottage and Small Scale Industries Selected for Survey, 1960-61

INDUSTRY : SMALL SCALE

Name of the Industry	Total number of establishments			Number of persons employed in the selected industry — Household			Number of persons employed in the selected industry — Outsiders			Total number of persons employed in the selected industry		
	Power	No power	Total	Power	No power	Total	Power	No power	Total	Power	No power	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Weaving	13	5	18	5	27	32	269	30	299	274	57	331
Dyeing and printing	.	.	.		..	..	.	.	..	.	..	..
Jari thread works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blacksmithy	13	1	14	45	2	47	105	18	123	150	20	170
Metal works	9	2	11	5	17	22	139	9	148	144	26	170
Carpentry	5	1	6	13		13	43	17	60	56	17	73
Cane and bamboo products		..			-	..				.	..	..
Bricks and tiles	..	3	3		23	23	..	10	10	.	33	33
Other Potteries		.	..	.	.	..		..	.	.	.	..
Leather working and tanning	..	1	1	.	.	..		10	10	.	10	10
Oil pressing	7		7	20	.	20	92	..	92	112	..	112
Gur making	3	113	116	13	426	439	38	1,227	1,266	51	1,653	1,704
Bee keeping	..	..			..	.		..	..	..	..	..
Soap making	..	1	1	..	4	4		16	16	..	20	20
Match making			.	.	.	.			.	..	..	.
Paddy husking	.		.		..	..	..	.	.	.	..	..
Total	**50**	**127**	**177**	**101**	**499**	**600**	**686**	**1,387**	**2,023**	**787**	**1,836**	**2,623**

Source : *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*. Vol. II, No. 1, January-March, 1962, Gujarat State

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Although the concept of industrial estate originated some seventy-five years ago, this method of industrial organisation in the country is a purely contemporary phenomenon. An industrial estate aims at helping the small entrepreneur in establishing an industry by providing him suitable land

for the factory, assistance for constructing the factory building and securing power, water, drainage, transport, storage, and other facilities at one place. The industrial estate in the district was established at Bhavnagar during the Second Five Year Plan period. The following was the position as it stood on 1st November, 1964.

1	No. of sheds completed	..	..	..	36
2	No. of sheds occupied		..	..	36
3	Total expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)		..	..	7.79
4	Total number of persons employed		..	..	190

Industrial Arts

PATARA MAKING AT BHAVNAGAR[1]

Patara literally means a big wooden chest, the front portion of which is decorated with embossed and perforated yellow coloured tin plates with colourful foils. The two side walls have handles which help its shifting from one place to another, which is further facilitated by wheels fixed at the bottom. A *patara* has a number of secret drawers. This district ranks first in comparison to other districts of Saurashtra because of its worksmanship and traditional designs in the making of this article. *Pataras* of 3 sizes, viz., (i) 4½′L × 2½′B × 3½′H (ii) 4½′ × 2½′ × 3′ and (iii) 4′ × 2¼′ × 2½′ weighing 1·60 B. md., 1·50 B. md. and 1·40 B. md. respectively are manufactured in seven establishments located in *Sutharwad* at Bhavnagar. Its price varies from Rs. 60 to 100 according to size. The small-sized *pataras* 18″ × 10″ × 13″ are made to order by only one establishment, viz., Niranjan Furnitures. It weighs 30 pounds and is studded with brass and aluminium strips instead of iron.

The *patara* is shaped like a railway wagon. Its convex lid gives it a graceful look. The front portion of *patara* covered with golden colour tin sheets is known as *padtarno* or *soneri kamwalo pataro*. Various geometrical and floral designs embossed on the yellow tin sheets, enhance the beauty of the chest. Important designs worked by the artisans are *raidana*, *kanthapati*, flowers, creepers, etc. The most popular motifs are elephants, lions, horses, peacocks and parrots. *Swastik* is frequently used as a religious symbol.

Patara is used by agriculturists especially in Saurashtra, for keeping mattresses, quilts, clothes, valuables, utensils, etc. In some of the castes like Garasia, Koli, Kathi, Ahir, Rabari and Kanbi, there is a custom of giving a *patara* to the daughter at the time of wedding. Small *pataras* are purchased by Government, All India Handicrafts Board, and the well-to-do as a show piece. Its use as a dressing table and ward robe are some of its modern adaptations.

The total annual production of *pataras* comes to 1,500 to 1,600 pieces valued at Rs. 136,600 approximately.

1 TRIVEDI R. K., Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-A, *Patara making at Bhavnagar*

BRASS AND COPPERWARES OF SIHOR

The craft of making brass and copperwares developed 200 years ago at Sihor, a former capital of Bhavnagar State. The main castes engaged in this craft are the Kansaras who are adept in making alloys. Despite mechanisation of the industry, about 50 per cent of the processing is still done by manual labour. The finished products are household utensils like plates, bowls, pans, tiffin-box, water pots, etc. Raw materials required are copper and brass sheets, tin, zinc and coal. Electric power is used in the manufacture of machine-pressed wares. The annual cost of raw materials is estimated at Rs. 12 to 15 lakhs on an average.

The craftsmen of Sihor, known for their originality in designs, cut the metal sheet into required size and beat it into preconceived shape with a mallet using stone as a stake. The different parts are then soldered with borax by heating them in a furnace. Finished products are cleaned with tamarind and acid. On an average, utensils and other articles weighing 110 B. md. of brass, 40 B. md. of copper and 5 B. md. of bronze estimated at Rs. 32,000 are manufactured daily. Finished products are marketed in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

SNUFF AT SIHOR

Sihor is an important centre of snuff manufacture in Saurashtra. About 750 to 850 workers are engaged in 20 units operating at Sihor. Workers of Bania and Barot castes who migrated from Dhandhuka 500 years ago have mainly contributed to the development of this industry at this place. Mechanised processes have been introduced and about 60 per cent of the establishments are now worked by electric power.

The main raw material, tobacco, is obtained from Kaira and Baroda districts of the State. Clay, chemicals and other subsidiary raw materials are purchased from Bombay and Rajkot on cash and credit basis. The cost of raw materials used is estimated at Rs. 25 to 35 lakhs.

Mixture of raw tobacco and water is allowed to ferment for about eight days. After it is malted and denatured, wet tobacco is dried completely in the sun before grinding. Grinding was formerly done by hand mill but it is mechanised now. The tobacco in the form of dust or flour is kept in an earthen vessel and churned continuously with a wooden rod or *dhoka* after adding a little water mixed with other chemicals to attain smoothness and fragrance. The powder is then filtered through a piece of cloth, and finally packed in wooden boxes or small packings for marketing.

All the units invest their own capital in this flourishing industry. Four varieties of snuff manufactured are: (i) scented snuff, (ii) simple snuff for application on teeth, (iii) chewing tobacco and (iv) tobacco for smoking

all valued at about Rs. 30 to 40 lakhs. The products are marketed in India, and exported to Karachi. Aden and Africa.

SCALE MAKING AT SAVARKUNDLA

Savarkundla occupies a pride of place in scale manufacture, a light engineering industry, which alone accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the production of this article on small scale basis in the country. Various factors have contributed towards the development of this craft. Important among these are abundant supply of fuel from the nearby forest, water from the river Navli containing ingredients required for tampering iron. and the traditional skill of local blacksmiths,who used to make and repair swords, sword handles and other iron articles in the past.

A local artisan sometime in 1850 seeing a German making scales at Bombay induced his family members to manufacture a scale according to the sketch drawn by him. This gave birth to the scale making industry at Savarkundla. Later, the adoption of Bombay Weights and Measures Act, 1931 by the ruler of Bhavnagar State gave a great impetus to this craft. There are at present 300 establishments manufacturing scales most of which belong to Luhar community and engage more than 600 persons of Luhar, Koli, Kanbi, Kumbhar and other castes.

Iron bars varying in size from 4" to 8', coal and oil paints are the main raw materials. Coal is imported mostly from Jharia in West Bengal. Other raw materials are generally purchased from private dealers in the local market or from Bhavnagar, Rajkot and Bombay on cash payment. The colours used are red, green, yellow, white, golden and black. The daily requirement of iron is 2 tons for scale making and 1 ton for other subsidiary crafts.

In the making of scales, traditional blacksmith's tools and implements are mostly used. Iron bars of required sizes are cut from iron plates by means of scrapers. Requisite shape is then given by heating and forging the bar. Various parts like brackets, hooks, pointer, loop suspending swivel, etc., that go to make a scale are given proper shape by hammering and filing. No pains are spared to ensure accuracy and durability of the products.

Their capacity ranges from small machines weighing minute pieces of precious metals and stones to larger ones weighing fully loaded trucks. Scales of Savarkundla have markets in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Finished products are sold directly by the manufacturer or his representative staying in these States. The average annual value of the products comes to Rs. 32 lakhs. The value of finished products in 1963-64 was Rs. 34 lakhs. The price ranges from Rs. 40 to 100. Products sold within the State account for 20 per cent and those outside the State 80 per cent.

WOOLLEN BLANKETS OF SAVARKUNDLA

Savarkundla is an important centre for the manufacture of woollen blankets. Sixty households of Kanbi and Vanker castes are engaged in weaving of blankets and shawls. 25 families ply it as a principal occupation and the rest as subsidiary. The main raw material is hand-spun and mill-spun wool, whereas *staple*, silk yarn and colours are the subsidiary raw materials. Their total requirement is valued at Rs. 125,000 per year.

The technique of weaving is similar to cotton weaving. Simple or paddle looms are used. The woollen yarn is first wrapped on bobins and *falka* for preparation of warp and weft. The weft is then dyed into various colours, red, pink, blue, black, violet, brown, etc. Blankets known as *khilvat dhabla* and having a width of 27" and 30" are woven in two parts and then stitched with a woollen thread. The central portion is white, while borders have floral and geometrical designs in colour.

Finished products valued at Rs. 200,000 are manufcatured at Savarkundla and marketed through wholesale merchants in Gujarat, Delhi, Madras, Punjab and other parts of country. Nearly 60 per cent of the total products are consumed in Saurashtra alone.

LACQUER WORK OF MAHUVA

Lacquered woodentoys, fruits, decorative and other household articles are made at Mahuva by the artisans belonging to Brahmkshatriya caste.

Formerly the artisans used to make wooden household articles like cots, cradles, etc. But the late ruler Bhavsinhji encouraged them to make decorative articles, toys, fruits, etc., and purchased them during his summer camp at Mahuva. Since then it has been an important handicraft of this place.

125 Brahmkshsatriya families are employed in 25 independent units working at Mahuva. The artisans work on electrically operated *sangheda* or hand turned lathe. Teak wood or *tectona grandis* is used for making cradles and other articles, whereas *haldervo* or *adina cordifolia* and *dudhala* or *wrightia tinctoria* are used for making toys. Wood, the main raw material, is turned and shaped with pointed and flat tools on lathe after first cutting it according to the size and shape of the object. The uneven surface is smoothed with flat chisels, sand paper and lithoform powder, whereafter appropriate lacquer colour is applied evenly with the help of *kevda pan*. Edible oil is smeared on the coloured part to impart glaze. All the different parts are then assembled to make the finished products ready for sale. Except for the use of electricity to operate the lathe, the tools are the traditional ones used by a carpenter and turner.

The products manufactured are cradles, cots and decorative articles like flower vase, dolls, dishes, dry and green vegetables, fruits, ash trays, wooden

pots, ball, powder box, table lamps, calendars, *tachka*, *ghughra*, etc., in colours and designs of exquisite beauty. The average annual production is estimated to be 300,000 to 400,000 pieces worth Rs. 150,000. The articles are marketed locally and are also in demand at various places in Gujarat.

TRAINING-*cum*-PRODUCTION CENTRES AND HANDICRAFTS EMPORIUM

In response to the requirements of villages and talukas and in co-ordination with the programme of the expansion of Community Development Schemes, 3 production-*cum*-training centres one each for smithy, carpentry and leather work were established in Bhavnagar district in the year 1956-57 at a cost of Rs. 1.52 lakhs. Handicrafts Emporium was also established at an expenditure of Rs. 1.45 lakhs at Bhavnagar with a view to facilitate marketing of cottage industries and handicraft products.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Bhavnagar City

At the end of the Second Five Year Plan, Bhavnagar district had comparatively speaking made good progress in the direction of industrialisation.

Bhavnagar city, however, leads in the matter of industrial development. In 1960 the number of registered factories and of workers employed therein was 129 and 9,808 respectively which rose to 160 factories and 13,000 workers in 1965. Textile mills, silk mills, salt works, vegetable oil factory, rubber factory, oil mills, saw mills, structural fabrication, barge building, bicycle chain factory, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, minerals, plastics, rolling mills, pumps, machine shops, foundries, steel castings, etc., are the important industries which have contributed largely towards the diversification and development of industries in the city. In addition to these, there are 202 small scale units engaged in the following types of industries

	Name of Industry	Number of Units		Name of Industry	Number of Units
1	Food	9	8	Non-ferrous metals ..	69
2	Tobacco	4	9	Ferrous metals	18
3	Wood	5	10	Machinery except Electrical	5
4	Paper	3	11	Electrical	4
5	Textiles	4	12	Transport	1
6	Chemicals	15	13	Miscellaneous	58
7	Cement, Glass, ceramics, etc.	7		Total	202

Source

Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bhavnagar

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Oil, Oil Seeds Crushing Industry

Bhavnagar district is surplus in groundnut and groundnut oil which has led to the development of oil seed crushing industry in the district, particularly as the groundnut grown is of superior quality and the fatty acid content comparatively less. Oil milling, solvent extraction, refining of oil, utilisation of bye-products in the manufacture of soap and fat splitting are the chain processes to which this commodity is amenable. Solvent extraction of oil cakes to recover residual oil and separate de-oiled cake is an important feature of this industry. There is ample scope for the extension of this process for which an additional plant can be installed in the vicinity of Bhavnagar city. This plant which is estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs will provide employment to 90 to 100 persons.[1]

Surgical Cotton

Surgical cotton, also known as absorbent cotton is used for medical purposes. Raw cotton is purified by a series of processes and rendered hydrophile in character by freeing it from external organic impurities. The internal demand for this item is increasing and it has good possibilities of export also. In view of the large production of cotton and existence of a number of ginning factories, Bhavnagar district offers good prospect for the location of units manufacturing surgical cotton. The Master Plan of Industrialisation, Bombay State and the *Audyogic Ayojan, Bhavnagar Jillo* has recommended a one ton per day plant which would require a capital of about Rs. 6 lakhs.

Cement

The rich deposits of lime-stone containing 85 per cent of C_2CO_3 between Gopnath and Zanzmer offer vast possibilities for setting up a good-sized unit manufacturing 500 tons of cement per day. A licence already issued by the Government of India for the establishment of a cement factory lapsed due to non-utilisation by the licencee.

Engineering Industries

Development of engineering is an index of industrial development in a region. Besides three re-rolling mills working in the district, there is a structural fabrication plant in smithy work at Bhavnagar run by Messrs Alcock Ashdown Co. Ltd., Bhavnagar. This concern is engaged in construction of barges, smithy, galvanising, etc. It has supplied towers to the Punjab Electricity Board and has also worked for the steel plants at Bhilai and Rourkela. The machine shop of Messrs Malwi Mechanical Works is one of the best workshops in the area for automobile repairs.

1. Gujarat State, *Audyogic Ayojan, Bhavnagar Jillo*, p. 9

The existence of light engineering works and their successful operation have made the city of Bhavnagar a suitable place for the location of fairly good sized unit for the manufacture of machine tools with an annual capacity of about 4,000 tons, which is proposed to be set-up in the public sector in collaboration with Czechoslovak Government with a capital investment of Rs. 12 crores.

Development of Small Industries

Small scale industries play a very significant role in the economic development of the region not only by increasing its employment potential but also by reducing concentration of large scale industries. Of late several steps have been taken by various agencies to promote the development of small scale industries in the district. Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation has prepared a scheme for the development of industrial area in Bhavnagar. A Master Plan for Bhavnagar city prepared by the municipality provides industrial zones for chemical industries, light industries and heavy industries. The municipality has also constructed 6 sheds in the Bhavnagar Industrial Estate which have been given to small scale units.

Labour and Employers' Organisations

Labour Organisations

The trade union movement signifies a collective effort on the part of labourers to increase their bargaining power in the labour market and thereby improve their social and economic condition. Before the integration of States there was generally speaking no freedom of association in most of the States of Saurashtra. In the former Bhavnagar State trade unionism was, however, encouraged, as witnessed by the Textile Labour Union on the model of Ahmedabad Textile Union functioning since 1931. It was registered in 1950 and had more than 3,000 members in 1964. It has a building of its own worth nearly Rs. 20,000. Its library contains 2,000 books. Its annual budget makes a provision of Rs. 2,000 for the upkeep and expansion of this library. It also maintains a reading room with six daily papers and a few weekly magazines. It conducts five night schools, and spends annually Rs. 1,500 on running them. Godi Kamdar Mandal, Bhavnagar, is another instance of a union formed during the time of Bhavnagar State. It was formed in 1925 and registered in 1950. It is engaged in a number of constructive activities. It has a library of 700 books, runs a shop on co-operative basis, has a canteen and maintains a *Shishu Vihar* for the children of the workers. In 1950 Godi Kamdar Mandal started an Engineers' Union which trains members in practical, mechanical, electrical and automobile engineering.

The Government of Saurashtra promulgated the Trade Union Ordinance in the middle of 1949. This ordinance embodied the provisions of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926. Trade unions functioning in the district at present are governed by this Act.

The statement given below shows the progress of trade unions in the district.

Year				Number of unions	Number of members
1951–52	..	..	..	12	5,422
1961–62	..	..	..	34	8,858
1962–63	..	..	..	38	9,816

Source :

1. VAKIL AND LAKDAWALA, *Economic Survey of Saurashtra*
2. *Annual Report on the activities of Government pertaining to labour matters*, 1961-62, 1962-63

It will be seen from the above table that a large number of trade unions has come up during the past decade. Some of them, therefore, have yet to learn the art and method of organising constructive activities. Along with the increase in number of trade unions, its membership has also increased simultaneously.

EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS

For the development of industry and maintaining contacts with commercial and public institutions in and outside the country, associations of employers are formed by various industries. A brief description of some of the important associations of whom several large and small concerns are members is given below.

Saurashtra Millowners' Association, Surendranagar

The cotton textile mills in the district are the members of this association which was formed in 1949. Its objectives are: (1) to encourage friendly feeling amongst members, to protect and promote trade, commerce and manufactures of Saurashtra in general and of the cotton trade in particular, (2) to collect information of economic importance and circulate the same among the members, (3) to promote commercial and technical education connected with trade and industry and to take all measures conducive to the extension of the trade and commerce in which the members are engaged. In the beginning of 1964, it had a membership of 8, out of whom 4 were from Bhavnagar district.

Saurashtra Oil Mills Association, Jamnagar

It was originally started in 1948, but wound up in 1952. In 1955, it started functioning again under the same name. Since then it has been working for the benefit of oil mills located in the districts of Saurashtra region. In 1964 it had 169 members.

Saurashtra Oil and Oil Seeds Association Ltd., Rajkot

This association was constituted and registered in December 1955. The objects for which this association was established are generally

(a) to promote and protect the interests of persons engaged in the trade or business of oil, oil seeds and oil cakes and (b) to conduct forward trade in oil, oil seeds and oil cakes at various centres approved for the purpose by the Forward Markets Commission, Government of India. The association through its ring centres in Saurashtra, of which Bhavnagar happens to be one, conducts forward trade in groundnut oil.

Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bhavnagar

Bhavnagar Chamber of Commerce was established in the year 1943 to look after the interests of trade, commerce and industry of Bhavnagar State. For details see Chapter VI—Banking, Trade and Commerce.

The Indian Engineering Association, Calcutta

The Alcock Ashdown Co. Ltd., Bhavnagar, which is engaged in construction of barges, smithy, galvanising, etc., is a member of Indian Engineering Association, Calcutta.

Welfare of Industrial Labour

The former Bhavnagar State had provided a legal framework by means of the following enactments adapted on the lines of British Indian legislation which protected the interests of both the parties employers and employees in an equitable manner.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act
(2) Maternity Benefit Act and
(3) Trade Disputes Act

The Darbar had also passed an Act for the purpose of licensing small and large factories with a view to safeguard the interests of labour by fixing hours of work in factories and providing necessary safeguards against machinery.

Soon after integration, the Government of Saurashtra in its first policy announcement made it clear that it was wedded to a progressive labour policy similar to the one followed by other States in India. Uniform labour legislation for the whole of Saurashtra, of which the district formed part, was enacted by adapting the important labour laws of Bombay State. An adequate administrative machinery for implementation and enforcement of these measures was created. It consisted of Labour Commissioner, two Assistant Labour Commissioners, who were also appointed as Conciliation Officers, two Labour Officers and an Industrial Tribunal.

The Indian Factories Act, 1948

The most basic piece of legislation was the Factories Act. The Saurashtra Factories Ordinance promulgated in June 1948 had provisions very similar to those of Indian Factories Act, 1934 as amended up to 1947. The Indian

Factories Act, 1948 was made applicable to the State of Saurashtra as also to this district which formed part of it, from 1st April, 1949. The Act which is in operation also at present covers all industrial establishments employing 10 or more workers where power is used and 20 or more workers in other cases. The provisionsof this Act are very briefly described below.

Health, Safety and Welfare

The Act lays down the minimum requirements regarding the health, safety and general welfare of workers. It contains a number of obligatory provisions relating to disposal of waste and effluence, ventilation and temperature, cool water during hot weather, etc. To avoid overcrowding, the Act provides for a minimum space of 500 cubic feet for each worker in a factory built after the commencement of the Act and 350 cubic feet for each worker in the existing factories. It embodies a number of safety provisions relating to the using of new machinery, hoists and lifts, cranes and other lifting machinery and prescribes the precautions to be taken against dangerous fumes and explosives and inflammable dust or gas.

Hours of Work

The working hours of the adult worker have been fixed at 48 a week and 9 a day. The maximum time spread and timing and duration of the rests have also been laid down. Women and adolescents are not allowed to do night work.

Amenities

The Act makes provisions for specific welfare measures such as washing facilities, first-aid appliances, canteens, rest shelters, etc.

The Inspector of Factories in the district is responsible for the administration of Factories Act in addition to (1) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 so far as it relates to Factories Act, 1949, (2) The Employment of Children Act (XXVI of 1938) and (3) Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925 (Section 9).

SCHEME OF SUBSIDISED INDUSTRIAL HOUSING

In order to pursue the housing programme extensively and vigorously and with a view to aiding and assisting industrial workers in construction of tenements, 200 tenements for industrial workers were completed in Bhavnagar district in the years 1953-55 under the scheme of subsidised industrial housing. Further the construction of 400 tenements was taken up in 1955-56. By the end of the First Five Year Plan 500 tenements were constructed in Bhavnagar and 100 in Mahuva. The 500 tenements at Bhavnagar are located near Nari Road. Of these tenements, 312 are of 'D' type and 118 are of 'B' type. 'D' type of tenement consists of one living

room, one bed room, one bathroom and one kitchen. 'B' type of tenement consists of one room, a kitchen, a corridor and a bathroom. The accommodation at Mahuva consists of one living room, one bed room, one kitchen and a bathroom. The total expenditure incurred on the construction of tenements at Bhavnagar in the First Plan was Rs. 1,461,062 and at Mahuva it was Rs. 241,165. This scheme was further continued in the Second Plan. Accordingly in Vithalvadi near Nilam Bag Palace, 50 tenements were constructed at the cost of Rs. 158,012 in the year 1957-58 and 164 tenements at the cost of Rs. 528,169 in the year 1958-59. Each tenement consisted of two rooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and a latrine. Provision was also made for water supply by granting a private connection. In the Third Five Year Plan a provision has been made for additional construction of 400 tenements at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,600,000. The Bhavnagar Salt and Industrial Works, Bhavnagar, in the year 1961 provided 249 rooms for workers, 32 blocks for mechanical staff and 8 blocks for supervisory staff all free of rent at the cost of Rs. 424,229.

WAGES

The problem of wage determination cannot be considered in isolation from the larger economic and social background obtaining in the district. A well conceived wage policy aims at (a) continual improvement in worker's living standard and (b) reasonable returns for the employers. Under the Minimum Wages Act, the Government of Saurashtra in March 1952 fixed in respect of employees in any rice mills, flour mills and Dal mills in places having a population of 15,000 and above a minimum wage of Rs. 45·80 which was raised to Rs. 52 per month for Bhavnagar city. Similar wage rates were prescribed also for oil mills.

Cotton Textiles

The minimum wages for textile mills in this and other districts were fixed by the former Saurashtra Government in accordance with recommendations of Divetia Committee. The committee recommended for trial an *ad hoc* scheme based on the rates of wages and dearness allowance in textile mills at Ahmedabad. A minimum wage of Rs. 21 for a month of 26 working days was recommended. This compared favourably with the minimum wage of Rs. 30 in Bombay, Rs. 28 in Ahmedabad, and Rs. 26 in Surat. The interim recommendation was accepted by all the three parties employers, workers and government and became operative from 1st July, 1948.

In its final report the committee recommended that the textile mills in Saurashtra should be grouped in three classes. A minimum wage of Rs. 24 for a month of 26 working days was recommended and the workers were to be given a basic pay of 80-85 per cent of the similar wages in Ahmedabad. A tripartite conference was later convened in 1955. It fixed a minimum wage of Rs. 26 for all the mills in Saurashtra, but as regards dearness allowance

different rates were maintained. In the Bhavnagar mills dearness allowance was fixed at 87½ per cent of the Ahmedabad rate; in Rajkot Mills it was 84 per cent and in Surendranagar 70 per cent. Even now dearness allowance is paid on this basis. The Central Wage Board for the cotton textile mills recommended an increase at the average rate of Rs. 6 per month per worker from 1st January, 1960 and a further flat increase of Rs. 2 from 1st January, 1962. As a result of this recommendation the minimum wage in respect of cotton textile industry in Saurashtra has become Rs. 26 *plus* 8 equal to Rs. 34.

In the case of silk mills in Bhavnagar district there has been an award in terms of settlement for wages and dearness allowance, dated 18th May, 1953. The minimum wage fixed was Rs. 26 and dearness allowance 72½ per cent of the cotton textile scale at Ahmedabad.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Almost all the registered factories in the district have provided First Aid boxes. Some of the large scale factories run dispensaries. The Mahalaxmi Mills runs a dispensary and a maternity home.

SCHEME OF GRATUITY

The gratuity scheme was first introduced in the textile mills of Bhavnagar. The scheme was in the nature of an experiment which was to be tried for seven years. But it appears that even thereafter the textile mills of Bhavnagar have voluntarily continued it and the workmen employed at Bhavnagar are entitled to gratuity in addition to the benefit of the provident fund scheme.

LABOUR WELFARE CENTRES AND OTHER MEASURES

In the district, there were six Government Labour Welfare Centres of which 2 were in class 'C' and the rest in class 'D'. These Centres were located at Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Nari, Sihor, and Botad. In a 'C' class Centre provision is made for *Bal Mandir*, an adult literacy class and a library in addition to facilities for playing indoor and outdoor games for the members; while the activities in a 'D' class Centre are restricted to outdoor games in the initial stages which are later extended according to the demand by the members.

The Mahalaxmi Mills Ltd., has started a Labour Welfare Centre in the mill *chawls* since 1948. The activities of this Centre include a nursery school, adult education, radio and cinema, and games and club activities.

Canteens and refreshment rooms have been provided by almost all large scale factories. Some of the factories such as New Jehangir Vakil Mills and Khodiyar Pottery Works have provided rest rooms.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT V-3

Industries Arranged in Descending Order of Number of Establishments, 1961

Sl. No.	Minor Group	Description	Number of units	Percentage to total
1	2	3	4	5
1	369	Manufacture of sundry hardwares including ferrous engineering products	652	13·08
2	289	Manufacture of other wood and allied products	592	11.87
3	200	Production of rice, *atta*, etc.	536	10.75
4	273	Making of textile garments	489	9.81
5	311	Manufacture of shoes and other leather footwear	427	8.56
6	393	Manufacture of jewellery, etc.	316	6.34
7	310	Currying, tanning and finishing of hides and skins	258	5.18
8	235	Cotton weaving in handlooms . ..	246	4.93
9	207	Production of edible fats and oils	244	4.89
10	209	Production of other food products	197	3.95
11	350	Manufacture of earthenware and earthen pottery	141	2.83
12	220	Manufacture of *bidi*	72	1.45
13	365	Manufacture of brass and bell metal products ..	46	0.92
14	280	Sawing and planing of wood	40	0.80
15	388	Repairing of bicycles and tricycles	38	0.76
16	370	Manufacture and assembling of machinery except textile machinery	37	0.74
17	281	Manufacture of wooden furniture and fixtures ..	36	0.72
18	384	Repairing and servicing of motor vehicles ..	28	0.56
19	336	Manufacture of soap and other washing and cleaning compounds	25	0.50
20	230	Cotton ginning, cleaning, pressing and baling ..	21	0.42
21	234	Cotton weaving in power looms	20	0.40
22	302	All other types of printing including lithography, engraving and others connected with printing industry	20	0.40
23	367	Manufacture of metal products (other than of iron, brass, bell metal and aluminium) such as tin can	20	0.40
24	392	Assembling and repairing of watches and clocks	12	0·24
25	205	Production of bread, biscuits, cake and other bakery products	2	0.04
26	272	Embroidery and making of crepe lace and fringes	1	0.02
	Total (1 to 26)	. .. .	*4,516*	*90.56*
	Others	.. ..	*471*	*9.44*
	Grand Total	.. ..	**4,987**	**100.00**

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishments Tables*

STATEMENT V·4

Industrial Classification by Divisions and Major Groups of Persons at Work other than Cultivation

Branch of Industry Division / Major Group 1		Description 2	Total workers 3	Workers at household industry 4	Workers in non-household industry 5
All Divisions ..		.. .. ..	**167,381**	**38,155**	**129,226**
Division 0		*Agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and hunting* ..	*22,870*	*18 323*	*4,547*
Major Gr.	04	Livestock and Hunting .	21,515	18,195	3,320
Division 1		*Mining and Quarrying* ..	*951*	*8*	*943*
Division 2 & 3		*Manufacturing*	*45,285*	*19,824*	*25,461*
Major Gr.	20	Foodstuffs	3,782	1,212	2,570
	22	Tobacco products	1,833	674	1,159
	23	Textile-cotton	10,677	3,545	7,132
	27	Textile-miscellaneous ..	5,069	2,777	2,292
	28	Manufacture of wood and wooden products . ..	4,941	2,692	2,249
	31	Leather and leather products ..	4,358	3,433	925
	33	Chemicals and chemical products	1,484	56	1,428
	34-35	Non-metallic Mineral products other than petroleum and coal	4,687	3,089	1,598
	36	Basic Metals and their products except machinery and transport equipment	3,751	1,380	2,371
	39	Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	2,116	667	1,449
Division 4		*Construction* . .	*5,465*	..	*5,465*
Major Gr.	40	Construction	5,465	..	5,465
Division 5		*Electricity, Gas, Water and Sanitary Services* . ..	*674*	..	*674*
Division 6		*Trade and Commerce* ..	*25,722*		*25,722*
Major Gr.	60-63	Wholesale Trade . .	1,675	.	1,675
	64-68	Retail Trade ..	22,403	..	22,403
	69	Trade and Commerce Miscellaneous	1,644	..	1,644
Division 7		*Transport, Storage and Communications*	*11,683*	..	*11,683*
Major Gr.	70 71	Transport	10,837	..	10,837
Division 8		*Services*	*45,091*	..	*45,091*
Major Gr.	80	Public Services	9,141	..	9,141
	81	Educational and Scientific Services	4,913		4,913
	82	Medical and Health Services .	1,610	.	1,610
	83	Religious and Welfare Services ..	2,843	..	2,843
	88	Personal Services	6,974	.	6,974
	89	Services (not elsewhere classified)	17,591	..	17,591
Division 9		*Activities not adequately described*	*9,640*	..	*9,640*
Major Gr.	90	Activities unspecified and not adequately described, (This includes new entrants to the labour market)	9,640	-	9,640

Note :

The table contains major groups having workers numbering 1,000 and above.

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part II-B(i), *General Economic Tables*.

STATEMENT V·5

Sample Households engaged only in Household Industry Classified by Principal Household Industry

(Based on 20 per cent Sample)

Households classified by major groups of Principal Household Industry and number of persons engaged

Code No. of I. S. I. C.		Household Industry (Division and Major Group only of I. S. I. C.)	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Total number of Households	Households engaged in Household Industry according to the number of persons engaged: 1 person	2 persons	3-5 persons	6-10 persons	More than 10 persons
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total		.. ..	**T**	**3,139**	**1,368**	**1,016**	**707**	**46**	**2**
			R	**2,628**	**1,130**	**868**	**595**	**34**	**1**
			U	**511**	**238**	**148**	**112**	**12**	**1**
***Division**	0	*Agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and hunting*	*T*	*1,171*	*428*	*380*	*342*	*21*	..
			R	*1 002*	*369*	*328*	*290*	*15*	..
			U	*169*	*59*	*52*	*52*	*6*	..
*Major Gr.	04	Livestock and Hunting	T	1,164	427	378	338	21	..
			R	995	368	326	286	15	..
			U	169	59	52	52	6	..
**Division*	*2 & 3*	*Manufacturing* ..	*T*	*1,968*	*940*	*636*	*365*	*25*	*2*
			R	*1,626*	*761*	*540*	*305*	*19*	*1*
			U	*342*	*179*	*96*	*60*	*6*	*1*
Major Gr.	23	Textile-cotton ..	T	310	104	119	78	9	..
			R	222	69	92	55	6	..
			U	88	35	27	23	3	..
	27	Textile-miscellaneous	T	225	116	66	42	1	..
			R	175	82	56	36	1	..
			U	50	34	10	6	..	..
	28	Manufacture of wood and wooden products	T	323	176	95	50	2	..
			R	284	149	86	48	1	..
			U	39	27	9	2	1	..
	31	Leather and leather products	T	416	223	120	68	5	..
			R	372	201	107	59	5	..
			U	44	22	13	9	..	..
	34-35	Non-metallic Mineral products other than petroleum and coal	T	218	56	84	72	5	1
			R	182	44	70	62	5	1
			U	36	12	14	10	..	..

*The major groups of Household Industry having less than 10 per cent of the figures of the respective divisions are not given in the table.

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part III. *Household Economic Tables*

STATEMENT

Number of Factories and Workers for

1956

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry	Large scale		Small scale		All factories	
		Fac-tories	Workers	Fac-tories	Workers	Fac-tories	Workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Gins and Presses	4	478	25	590	29	1,068
2	Manufacture of dairy products	..	..	.	.	..	..
3	Manufacture of grain mill products	.	..	2	21	2	21
4	Manufacture of sugar confectionery, Cocoa and Chocolate	.	.			..	.
5	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations	8	1,551	14	272	22	1,823
6	Tobacco manufactures ..	1	120	6	129	7	249
7	Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles . .	5	5,572	18	337	23	5,909
8	Cordage Rope and Twine Industries ..		.	2	48	2	48
9	Manufacture of textiles not elsewhere classified			2	23	2	23
10	Manufacture of wood and cork except manufacture of furniture . .	..	.	7	107	7	107
11	Manufacture of Furniture and Fixtures . ..		.	1	4	1	4
12	Pulp, paper and paperboard mill . ..	.	.	..	..	.	.
13	Printing, Bookbinding, etc .	2	182	8	125	10	307
14	Manufacture of Rubber and Rubber products	1	234	..	..	1	234
15	Basic Chemicals including fertilizers . .	2	223	1	19	3	242
16	Manufacture of miscellaneous Chemical Products ..	1	94	4	85	5	179
17	Petroleum Refineries ..	..		1	20	1	20
18	Manufacture of structural clay products	..	..	1	10	1	10
19	Manufacture of pottery, China and earthenware ..	..	..	..	.	..	..

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad, *Location of Industries in Gujarat State* 1956-60

V·6

all Industries in 1956 and 1960

1960

Large scale		Small scale		All factories			
Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers	Factories	Workers		Name of the Industry
9	10	11	12	13	14		2
3	456	30	560	33	1,016	1	Gins and Presses
..	..	1	32	1	32	2	Manufacture of dairy products
.	.	2	24	2	24	3	Manufacture of grain mill products
..	..	1	8	1	8	4	Manufacture of Sugar Confectionery, Cocoa and Chocolate
7	1,101	34	596	41	1,697	5	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations
1	59	4	87	5	146	6	Tobacco manufactures
4	5,472	20	449	24	5,921	7	Spinning, weaving, and finishing of textiles
..		2	48	2	48	8	Cordage Rope and Twine Industries
	..		..	.	..	9	Manufacture of textiles not elsewhere classified
..	..	9	160	9	160	10	Manufacture of wood and cork except manufacture of furniture
..	..	..	..	..	..	11	Manufacture of Furniture and Fixtures
.	..	1	23	1	23	12	Pulp, paper and paper-board mill
1	108	7	96	8	204	13	Printing, Bookbinding, etc.
1	358	..	..	1	358	14	Manufacture of Rubber and Rubber products
1	179	2	100	3	279	15	Basic Chemicals including fertilisers
..	..	7	177	7	177	16	Manufacture of miscellaneous Chemical Products
..		1	5	1	5	17	Petroleum Refineries
4	355	2	17	6	372	18	Manufacture of structural clay products
1	274	.		1	274	19	Manufacture of pottery, China and earthenware

(Bk) H-30—34

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Industry	1956 Large scale Factories	Large scale Workers	Small scale Factories	Small scale Workers	All factories Factories	All factories Workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	Manufacture of Cement	..		1	40	1	40
21	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products not elsewhere classified	..		9	184	9	184
22	Basic metal industries—ferrous	..	—	4	[illegible]	4	122
23	Manufacture of metal products (except machinery and Transport equipment)	..	..	9	151	9	151
24	Manufacture of machinery except electrical machinery	3	342	18	306	21	648
25	Electrical Machinery apparatus appliances and supplies	1	64	..		1	64
26	Ship Buildings			..		..	
27	Manufacture and Repair of railroad equipments	1	233			1	233
28	Manufacture of Motor vehicles and cycle			2	17	2	17
29	Manufacture of musical instruments			4	66	4	66
30	Manufacturing industries, not elsewhere classified			1	57	1	57
31	Electric Light and power	1	57	6	82	7	139
32	Water Supply Station				..	..	
33	Sanitary Service (Pumping and sewage)	..		2	27	2	27
	Grand Total	30	9,150	148	2,842	178	11,992

V·6—*contd.*

1960							
Large scale		Small scale		All factories			
Fac-tories	Workers	Fac-tories	Workers	Fac-tories	Workers		Name of the Industry
9	10	11	12	13	14		2
—	..	2	24	2	24	20	Manufacture of Cement
1	82	10	239	11	321	21	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products not elsewhere classified
—	—	4	119	4	119	22	Basic metal industries—ferrous
..	...	18	325	18	325	23	Manufacture of metal products (except machinery and Transport equipment)
2	348	27	453	29	801	24	Manufacture of machinery except electrical machinery
—	—	...	—	—	...	25	Electrical machinery apparatus appliances and supplies
1	52	...	...	1	52	26	Ship Buildings
1	613	—	—	1	613	27	Manufacture and Repair of railroad equipments
1	64	2	20	3	84	28	Manufacture of Motor vehicles and cycles
—	—	4	97	4	97	29	Manufacture of musical instruments
1	85	3	82	4	167	30	Manufacturing industries, not elsewhere classified
1	60	5	86	6	146	31	Electric Light and power
—	—	1	17	1	17	32	Water Supply Station
—	—	1	10	1	10	33	Sanitary Service (Pumping and sewage)
31	9,666	200	3,860	231	13,526		Grand Total

STATEMENT

The Number of Establishments and Number of Persons Employed in

Name of the Industry	Total number of establishments			Total number of persons employed in the selected industries — Household		
	Power	No power	Total	Power	No power	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Weaving	3	1,356	1,359	5	4,487	4,492
Dyeing and printing		106	106		200	200
Jari thread works	.	.	..		..	.
Blacksmithy	130	952	1,082	280	1,641	1,921
Metal works	47	862	909	96	1,593	1,689
Carpentry	80	1,882	1,962	172	2,838	3,010
Cane and bamboo products		256	256		511	511
Bricks and tiles		1,206	1,206		4,257	4,257
Other Potteries		1,257	1,257		4,472	4,472
Leather working and tanning		2,061	2,061	.	4,234	4,234
Oil pressing	98	886	984	158	2,374	2,532
Gur making		300	300	..	947	947
Bee keeping		..			.	...
Soap making	1	30	31	2	61	63
Match making					..	..
Paddy husking	115	5	120	194	4	198
Total ..	**474**	**11,159**	**11,633**	**907**	**27,619**	**28,526**

Source :

Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Vol. II, No. 1, January–March, 1962, Gujarat State

V-8

Cottage and Small Scale Industries Selected for Survey, 1959-60

(INDUSTRY : COTTAGE)

Total number of persons employed in the selected industries — Outsiders			Total number of persons employed in the selected industries			
Power	No power	Total	Power	No power	Total	Name of the Industry
8	9	10	11	12	13	1
10	35	45	15	4,522	4,537	Weaving
	78	78	.	278	278	Dyeing and printing
.	.				..	Jari thread works
225	371	599	505	2,015	2,520	Blacksmithy
72	189	261	168	1,782	1,950	Metal works
178	195	373	350	3,033	3,383	Carpentry
	7	7		518	518	Cane and bamboo products
.	32	32	.	4,280	4,280	Bricks and tiles
	7	7		4,479	4,479	Other Potteries
	116	116		4,350	4,350	Leather working and tanning
404	41	445	562	2,415	2,977	Oil pressing
.	618	616		1,565	1,565	Gur making
.			.	.	.	Bee keeping
6	86	92	8	147	155	Soap making
			..		...	Match making
35	2	37	229	6	235	Paddy husking
930	**1,780**	**2,710**	**1,837**	**29,399**	**31,236**	**Total**

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

A—Banking and Finance

Availability of finance is an important factor in the agro-industrial growth of an area, a broad idea of which can be had by reviewing the work of agencies providing finance to farmers, traders, industrialists and others in the district. They are indigenous money-lenders, co-operative credit societies, co-operative banks, joint stock banks, etc. Their function is two-fold; to mobilise the savings of the public and to canalise them into different productive activities. There are also the insurance companies whose main business is to collect the savings of the people in the form of premia and invest them in some interest yielding securities or contribute to the capital requirements of industries by investment in shares or debentures. Private and public limited companies also attract savings of the public in the form of share capital and deposits for utilising them in different productive activities. The State also plays a significant role in the financial sphere by floating loans and promoting small savings for financing its developmental plans and other governmental activities. Life Insurance Corporation and various other Corporations sponsored by government have been playing an important role in developing the financial structure of the state and the country. The part played by each of these agencies will be reviewed in the pages that follow.

MONEY-LENDERS

The Statistical Account of Bhavnagar being the contribution of the State to the Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, published as far back as 1884 observes :

> " Principal money-lenders in Bhavnagar State are Nagar Brahmans, Vanias, Lohanas, Bhatias, Kunbis, Khojas, Voras, Memans and few Arabs. Among merchants the usual rate of interest is from four and half to eight per cent, among cultivators from six to twelve per cent, among Girassias or land-owners, from nine to eighteen per cent; unless land be mortgaged collaterally as security, if, too, ornaments are pledged as security, the rate of interest is lowered. There is no custom of presenting the banker with anything at the time of repayment of a loan, but rather it is usual for a deed to be drawn out for a sum in excess of amount actually lent to the borrower, as *kothali choraman*, *watao* or other local name."

Besides doing the business of money-lending, some of them, also sold commodities of day to day requirements. This indigenous institution of money-lenders did not remain a 'boon' for long and their unrivalled position tempted them to take undue advantage of the illiteracy and ignorance of the

peasantry. Besides charging heavy rate of interest the *sahukar* resorted to a number of fraudulent practices which ultimately resulted in the heavy indebtendness of the agriculturist classes. The economic condition of the *khedutr* deteriorated to such an extent that it became imperative for the State to step in and tackle the problem of agricultural indebtedness in the State. The unprecedented scheme of Agricultural Debt Redemption successfully implemented in Bhavnagar State throws light on the usurious practices resorted to by the greedy money-lenders.

Finding no alternative to free themselves from the clutches of the money-lender, some cultivators of Sajan Timba village (now in Amreli District) made a petition to the State's Revenue Commissioner complaining about the usurious practices resorted to by the *sahukar* which led to their economic ruination. The Revenue Commissioner inquired into the matter and submitted his findings to the Council of Administration of Bhavnagar State. Realising the gravity of the situation the Council appointed the *Khedut* Debt Inquiry Committee on 12th June 1922 under the chairmanship of Dewan Bahadur Tribhuvandas K. Trivedi, Senior Member of the Council to inquire into the problem of agricultural indebtedness and to suggest remedial measures calculated to provide immediate relief to the *khedutts* in their desperate economic condition and minimise the risk of their being exploited and taken undue advantage of by unscrupulous and usurious money-lenders. The Committee made preliminary investigation by making an on the spot study in villages of Umrala, Botad Gadhada and Lilia (now in Amreli District) mahals of the State. An exhaustive and comprehensive questionnaire, for collecting from the cultivators such details as the extent of their debt, cattle wealth, size of holdings, assessment payable by them, numerical strength of their families, etc., was thereafter issued. After the forms were received duly filled in the Committee toured the whole State, studied the entire problem of agricultural indebtedness and submitted its report to the Council in which legislative and other concrete measures for the relief and protection of *khedutts* were recommended. In pursuance of these recommendations, the Bhavnagar State enacted and passed in 1929 the *Khedut* Protection Act with a view to arrest further economic spoliation of the agriculturists by the money-lender. The Council also sanctioned a Debt Redemption Scheme as it was felt that the mere passing of the *Khedut* Protection Act would not bring the results desired. The scheme covered all debtors of the same creditor and all the creditors of the same debtor. There was no element of compulsion in the scheme and debts were to be redeemed by bringing about an amicable settlement of all outstanding accounts pending between the debtor and the creditor. Under this scheme it was proposed to settle all private debts of the farmers in such a way that the money-lenders might recover the principal amount lent by them to the agriculturists with a moderate and equitable rate of interest. The amount to be paid to the creditors under the scheme was governed by two-fold limitations, viz., (1) that it should not exceed a sum equal to three times the annual amount of assessment payable by the debtor *khatedar* and

(2) that the total amount paid on account of a particular *tappa* should not exceed one-fourth of the total outstandings of that *tappa*. A committee consisting of State officials and representatives of money-lenders was appointed to implement the scheme. As one committee could not cope up with the stupendous work of debt redemption, two more committees were later on appointed.

The entire work of the redemption of debts of agriculturists was completed in four years' time and the total outstandings of Rs. 8,638,874 were compounded and liquidated by the Bhavnagar Darbar by paying a sum of Rs. 2,059,473 to the creditors. As the cultivators had not the means to repay the debts settled, the Bhavnagar Darbar took the boldest step to advance the money required for repayment of *sahukars*' debts by way of loan to be recovered at easy rate of interest (4 per cent) from the *khedut* along with land revenue.

After Independence, the government of the newly created Union of Saurashtra was keenly alive to the serious problem of agrarian indebtedness in the region. To get a clear picture of the situation, that government appointed an Agricultural Debt Inquiry Committee in 1952. The committee was required to investigate and indicate the causes of indebtedness, nature of debt and sources of loan, money-lending agencies and their method and the rate of interest charged, etc. It was also required to suggest remedial measures for relief, conciliation and scaling down of debts, control of money-lending and alternative agencies to meet the credit requirements of cultivators. On the basis of recommendation made by the committee in its Report, the Saurashtra Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act was passed in 1954. The statement below gives an idea of the working of the Act in the district.

STATEMENT VI-1

Working of the Saurashtra Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1954-55 to 1961-62

Year	Number of applications disposed of			
	On preliminary issues	By adjudicating debtors as insolvents	By passing awards	For other reasons
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1954–55	20	—	145	70
1955–56	70	—	1,196	744
1956–57	59	—	1,317	1,011
1957–58	12	—	510	131
1958–59	3	—	46	2
1959–60	—	—	11	1
1960–61	—	—	1	6
1961–62	—	—	1	2
Total	164	—	3,227	1,968

STATEMENT VI·1—*contd.*

Year	Amount involved: On preliminary issues (in Rs.)	By adjudicating debtors as insolvents (in Rs.)	By passing awards (in Rs.)	For other reasons (in Rs.)	Amount by which debts were reduced (in Rs.)
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
1954-55	7,860.00	..	95,660.84	57,316.00	69,241.31
1955-56	25,643.11	..	349,504.65	201,791.65	190,000·71
1956-57	12,583.80	..	555,173.60	127,421.19	140,258.01
1957-58	3,099.04	..	296,096.56	27,055.98	204,890.69
1958-59	45,000.00	..	89,268.31	943.57	50,480.84
1959-60	..	..	41,355.29	2,435.00	25,027.95
1960-61	..	..	960.00	9,665.00	618.28
1961-62	..	..	5,600.00	..	524.31
Total	**94,185.95**	..	**1,433,085.25**	**429,623.33**	**681,049.10**

Source :

District and Sessions Judge, Bhavnagar

During the period beginning from 1954-55 to 1961-62 as many as 5,357 applications involving a sum of Rs. 1,946,896 were disposed of by the civil courts in the district under the Saurashtra Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1954. The amount by which the outstanding debt of Rs. 1,946,896 was reduced was to the extent of Rs. 681,048 or 34.98 per cent. A majority of applications was disposed of by passing awards. This Act did provide some relief to the agricultural debtors but it did not cure the disease.

The need for a stringent measure for regulating money-lender's usurious lending and other malpractices had been felt since long. It was with this end in view that the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946 was applied to the areas of Saurashtra with effect from 1960. The main provisions of the Act are licensing and registration of money-lenders, maintenance of accounts in prescribed forms, furnishing of receipts and statements of accounts to the debtor and fixation of rates of interest on secured and unsecured loans The principal object of the Act is to help the process of moulding the pattern of the country's economy.

While the money-lender, under the scheme of regulated credit, is expected to dispense credit on principles of social justice, so far as the debtor is concerned, the Act is also intended to have some educative value, the main object being to protect him from the consequences of his reckless borrowing. With his account, periodically before him, the debtor, it is expected, will be more vigilant about incurring further liabilities and will also have an opportunity of taking stock of his position from time to time. The rate of interest to be charged by money-lenders is fixed. On secured loans the maximum rate of interest allowed is 9 per cent but 12 per cent on unsecured loans. Most

of the loans for agricultural purposes being unsecured, agriculturists usually pay interest at the prescribed rate of 12 per cent per annum, whereas those pertaining to non-agricultural purposes, mostly being secured, the rate of interest is up to 9 per cent per annum. Due to the strict enforcement of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, money-lenders cannot take possession of the land in satisfaction of their outstanding dues from the agriculturists. They have since then shifted their business from unsecured advances to secured advances on standing crops or on advance sale of seasonal crops.

The following statement shows the number of licensed money-lenders and their loan transactions (not exempted under section 22 of the Act) in the district.

STATEMENT VI-2

Licensed Money-lenders and Loan Transactions, 1960-61 to 1963-64

Period (Year beginning from 1st August and ending on 31st July)	No. of applications received by Assistant Registrar from money-lenders for grant of renewal of licences	No. of licences granted for the first time	No. of licences renewed	No. of money-lenders holding valid licences	Loans to traders (in Rs.)	Loans to non-traders (in Rs.)	Total of colms. 6 and 7 (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1960–61 ..	172	160	160	320	374,184	4,579,910	4,954,094
1961–62 ..	292	78	201	279	417,613	2,308,194	2,725,807
1962–63 ..	331	85	207	303	14,540	5,793,377	5,807,917
1963–64 ..	318	83	293	326	97,085	6,007,590	6,104,675

Source :

District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhavnagar

Despite legal checks and controls and alternative modern agencies for providing rural finance, the institution of money-lenders has been able to maintain its utility as seen from the number of licences issued and loans advanced.

JOINT STOCK BANKS

The district had nineteen branches of joint stock banks in 1962. Out of these only one bank, viz., the State Bank of Saurashtra, had its registered office at Bhavnagar, the headquarters of the district, while the rest were branch offices of banks which had their registered offices outside the district.

BHAVNAGAR DARBAR BANK

The former State of Bhavnagar had established in the year 1902 the Bhavnagar Darbar Bank, the first commercial bank to start banking business in the district. In addition to the State treasury work, the bank conducted the business on modern lines and extended usual banking facilities including the safe deposit vault, to meet the requirements of the commercial community and the public. The bank thus played an important role in the development of industries and commerce in the State of Bhavnagar. It also financed the building activity in the newly developed town planning area. On the formation of the State of Saurashtra, the bank was amalgamated into the State Bank of Saurashtra in 1950. This bank is now functioning as a subsidiary to the State Bank of India since 1960.

The name of the banks, their location and the year of establishment of various branches in the district are given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the bank	Place of location	Year of establishment
1	State Bank of Saurashtra	Bhavnagar	1902
2	,, ,,	Palitana	1934
3	,, ,,	Savarkundla	1943
4	,, ,,	Botad	1945
5	,, ,,	Mahuva	1949
6	,, ,,	Talaja	1953
7	,, ,,	Sihor	1954
8	Dena Bank Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1944
9	,, ,,	Mahuva	1950
10	,, ,,	Savarkundla	1951
11	,, ,,	Botad	1960
12	,, ,,	Sihor	1960
13	Bank of Baroda Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1921
14	United Commercial Bank Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1948
15	Central Bank of India Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1948
16	Punjab National Bank Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1948
17	Bhavnagar Vibhagiya Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.[1]	Bhavnagar	1955
18	Union Bank of India Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1956
19	Canara Bank Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1959
20	Bhavnagar District Central Co-operative Bank[1]	Bhavnagar	1959
21	Bank of India Ltd.	Bhavnagar	1961

1. Details of these banks appear in the section entitled 'Co-operative Banking', pp. 279-283

The main business of these banks is to attract deposits—current, fixed and savings and to finance various sectors of economy, mainly industry and commerce. The extent of deposits collected by these banks in the district is shown in the Statements VI·3 and VI·4 given at the end of the Chapter.

During 1961 out of total deposits of Rs. 103,719 thousands, Rs. 47,050 thousands or nearly 45·36 per cent were accounted for by fixed deposits. The preponderance of fixed deposits also persisted during the year 1962 when this percentage rose to 48·22 per cent. The savings account deposits accounted for 36.33 per cent of the total deposits in the year 1961 and 33·62 per cent in the year 1962. The current account deposits amounted to Rs. 15,037 thousands or 14·50 per cent of the total deposits for the year 1961 but rose to Rs. 16,968 thousands accounting for 15·10 per cent of the total deposits held by the banks in the district in the year 1962. Another point worthy of note is that among the various categories of depositors the largest contribution is made during 1961 and 1962 by individual depositors who accounted for Rs. 71,709 thousands or 69·14 per cent in 1961 and Rs. 72,597 thousands or nearly 64·59 per cent in 1962.

Particulars of loans advanced by joint stock banks in the district to industry, commerce, agriculture, etc., are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT VI·5

Analysis of Advances (Purpose-wise)

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

		Year ended, 1961			Year ended, 1962		
		Number of accounts	Amount in Rs.	Percentage to total advances	Number of accounts	Amount in Rs.	Percentage to total advances
I	Industry ..	179	27,544	66.69	106	29,903	72.05
II	Commerce ..	402	9,729	23.56	359	8,339	20.09
III	Agriculture ..	1	16	0.04	2	10	0.03
IV	Personal and professional	364	2,379	5.76	347	2,416	5.82
V	All others ..	54	1,629	3.95	51	834	2.01
	Total ..	1,000	41,299	100.00	925	41,508	100.00

The above statement reveals that the largest amount of advances made was claimed by industry, i.e., 66·69 per cent in 1961 and 72·05 per cent in 1962. Commerce came next with 23·56 per cent in 1961 and 20.09 per cent in 1962.

The following statement shows the advances of the joint stock banks in the district against various types of securities for the years 1961 and 1962.

STATEMENT VI·6

Analysis of Advances (Security-wise)

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

	Year ended 1961			Year ended 1962		
	Number of accounts	Amount (in Rs.)	Percentage to total advances	Number of accounts	Amount (in Rs.)	Percentage to total advances
I—Secured Advances						
1 Government and trustee securities	11	241	0.58	10	159	0.38
2 Shares and debentures of Joint stock companies, etc.	75	2,235	5.41	83	2,229	5·37
3 Gold and silver—Gold and Silver ornaments	126	148	0.36	90	85	0.21
4 Merchandise						
(a) Agricultural commodities	128	7,137	17.28	86	4,830	11.64
(b) Non-agricultural commodities	186	19,212	46.52	192	21,199	51.08
5 Real estate						
(a) Agricultural land .	.	–	--	..		
(b) Other properties .	27	3,324	8.05	15	3,959	9.54
6 Fixed deposits ..	108	713	1.73	122	817	1.97
7 Other secured advances .	77	3,432	8.31	72	4,259	10.26
Total	**736**	**36,442**	**88.24**	**678**	**37,537**	**90.45**
II—Unsecured Advances ..	264	4,857	11.76	247	3,965	9.55
Total of I and II ..	**1,000**	**41,299**	**100.00**	**925**	**41,502**	**100.00**

It will be observed from the above table that the non-agricultural commodities were mostly preferred by the banks as security. As much as 46.52 per cent of the total advances in the year 1961 and 51·08 per cent in 1962 were made against the security of non-agricultural commodities.

Bhavnagar is a well developed intermediate port of the State and the city possesses a fairly well developed industrial structure with such industries as textiles, chemical works, iron and steel works, vegetable products, rubber goods, etc. Besides the district has large pottery works, utensils and snuff manufacturing industries at Sihor and scale making industry at Savarkundla. The maritime trade of Bhavnagar and industrial potential of the district have acted as a good stimulant to the banks for establishing their branches in the

district. The deposits may well be considered as a barometer for measuring the extent of banking mindedness of the public. The overall deposits collected by these banks amounted to Rs. 103,719,000 and Rs. 112,397,000 respectively in 1961 and 1962. Advances made during these two years were to the extent of Rs. 41,299,000 and Rs. 41,502,000 respectively or 39.82 per cent and 36.92 per cent of the total deposits. This shows that the amount of deposits collected by the banks was not fully utilised within the district. It has been reported by the banks that the village people have also become savings minded, but much of their savings was attracted by co-operative societies, which compete with the commercial banks in rural areas. The policy of restricting the advances against cash crops and foodgrains, imposed by the Reserve Bank of India, is stated to have largely affected their advances for agricultural purposes. They have, however, played an important role in promoting the growth of industries, trade and commerce by providing the necessary finance for non-agricultural purposes in the district.

CO-OPERATIVE BANKING

Co-operative movement was inaugurated in India in 1904 mainly with a view to free the peasants from the clutches of money-lenders, promote all-round social and economic development and inculcate the spirit of thrift and mutual aid among the people. Bhavnagar was the pioneer State in the peninsular Gujarat to realise the importance of co-operative movement and had enacted its own legislation based on the Central Co-operative Act of 1912. Prior to 1948 there were 288 co-operative societies in Saurashtra out of which as many as 217 or 75 per cent were in Bhavnagar State alone. These societies mainly disbursed short term loans as their working capital was raised from short term deposits of members.

After Independence the co-operative movement made much headway in the district. The Saurashtra Government adopted and applied in the region the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act of 1925.

Agricultural Credit Societies

Bhavnagar State had, at the time of its merger in 1948, 217 co-operative societies, out of which agricultural credit societies numbered 214, which, by 1963, rose to 465 covering almost all villages of the district. Loans given by these societies are mostly on personal security supplemented by two good sureties, who are members of the society and sometimes against immovable property. With the introduction of the Saurashtra Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act in 1954 and with the application of the Bombay Money-lenders' Act to the Saurashtra region from 1960, agricultural credit societies are called upon to play a greater part in the field of rural finance.

Service Co-operative Societies have been introduced since 1959 for revitalising stagnant agricultural credit societies. Besides disbursing credit, these societies supply improved seeds and fertilisers, agricultural tools and implements

and run consumer stores. Out of a total of 465 agricultural credit societies in the district in 1962-63, 141 were service co-operatives.

Statement VI-7 illustrating the working of agricultural credit societies in the district is given at the end of the Chapter.

There has been a considerable increase in the membership of these societies which has increased from 27,540 in 1955-56 to 55,487 in 1961-62, with corresponding increase in share and working capital and loans advanced. Decline in their number after 1958-59 and especially in 1959-60 was due to the territorial changes which took place in 1959 reducing the former size of this district.

Non-agricultural Credit Societies

These societies are usually situated in towns and cater to the credit requirements of their members who are generally traders, artisans, factory workers, salary earners, etc. Urban co-operative banks, urban credit societies, salary earners' societies, mill hands' societies, factory workers' societies, thrift and credit societies, etc., are classified under this group. There does not seem to be much difference between the constitution and management of urban societies and urban banks. Only those urban credit societies which are allowed to do banking business according to the standard and criteria laid down are allowed to use the word bank as part of their names. The working of these societies (including urban co-operative banks) is given in Statement VI 7 appended at the end of the Chapter.

The district has five urban co-operative banks. one each at Bhavnagar. Palitana, Savarkundla, Botad and Mahuva, the Bhavnagar Vibhagiya Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Bhavnagar, being the most prominent among them.

STATEMENT VI-8

Operations of Bhavnagar Vibhagiya Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., 1961-62 to 1964-65

Sl. No.	Particulars		1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
1	Number of members ..		4,805	5,345	5,950	6,717
2	Paid-up share capital .	Rs.	245,000	311,000	378,000	450,000
3	Reserve and other funds .	Rs.	57,000	77,000	102,000	144,000
4	Deposits held	Rs.	429,000	575,000	797,000	1,247,000
5	Loans advanced .	Rs.	861,000	1,3[illegible]0,000	2,170,000	2,230,000
6	Loans due ..	Rs.	951,000	1,357,000	1,928,000	2,233,000
7	Loans over due . .	Rs.	140,000	..	319,000	324,000
8	Working capital .. .	Rs.	1,019,000	1,440,000	2,002,000	2,328,000

Source :

Manager, Bhavnagar Vibhagiya Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Bhavnagar

Agricultural Non-credit Societies

These include joint farming, collective farming, tenant farming, better farming, lift irrigation, cattle breeding, etc., co-operative purchase and sale unions, one at the district level and eleven at the taluka level.

Non-agricultural Non-credit Societies

These include consumer co-operatives, housing co-operatives, industrial co-operatives, better living societies, medical relief societies, education societies, *gram vikas mandals*, etc.

Statement VI-9 illustrating the operations of Agricultural Non-credit and Non-agricultural Non-credit societies is appended at the end of the Chapter.

Housing societies were by far the most important in the district. The activities of consumers' co-operative stores are likewise spreading and extend even to rural areas. Yet another important feature of co-operative movement is the establishment of central co-operative wholesale store at Bhavnagar with retail stores located in every ward of the city.

District Central Co-operative Bank

After the formation of State of Saurashtra in 1948, Gohilwad District Co-operative Bank was started in 1948. When the Saurashtra State Co-operative Bank was registered on October 15, 1951 as an apex bank, this bank was amalgamated with it in 1955. Pursuant to the decision to start a district central co-operative bank for each district, Bhavnagar District Central Co-operative Bank was registered on April 4, 1959. It took over the entire business of all the 14 branches of the former bank in the district. In 1963, besides the head office in Bhavnagar city, the Bank had 20 branches serving the banking and credit requirements of this area.

The usual purposes for which loans are advanced by the Bank are: (1) short term loans to primary agricultural credit societies for raising crops, (2) medium term loans for capital investment like purchase of bullocks, milch cattle, cart, implements, etc., (3) marketing loans, (4) loans against hypothecation of produce and (5) cash credits against general assets. The financial resources of the Bank consist of share capital, deposits and borrowings from the Reserve Bank of India as also from the Gujarat State Co-opeative Bank.

The following statement shows the nature and magnitude of the operationss of the Bank in the district since 1960.

STATEMENT VI-10

Operations of Bhavnagar District Central Co-operative Bank Limited, 1960-63 (As on 30th June)

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Particulars		1960	1961	1962	1963
1	Number of members					
	(a) Individuals ..		3	29	23	18
	(b) Societies		561	590	603	611
2	Paid-up share capital ..	Rs.	2,354	4,017	4,740	5,743
3	Reserve and other funds ..	Rs.	252	333	544	810
4	Total deposits ..	Rs.	7,708	10,362	9,454	7,964
5	Working capital ..	Rs.	26,033	27,524	29,581	33,242
6	Investment including fixed deposits	Rs.	1,230	2,345	3,013	2,541
7	Loans advanced	Rs	10,878	27,285	30,128	26,505
8	Loans outstanding ..	Rs.	17,012	18,286	22,610	26,756
9	Recoveries	Rs.	8,264	26,024	25,870	22,526
10	Overdues	Rs	6,082	3,329	4,781	6,070

Source :

District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bhavnagar

Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank

Nearly 33 per cent of the total areas under cultivation in Saurashtra in 1948 was in the possession of Girasdari tenants, who were mere tenants-at-will and had no incentive to improve the land as they could not reap the fruits of their own labour. To remove these handicaps the former Government of Saurashtra enacted various measures of land reforms, whereby tenants were enabled to become occupants of the land cultivated by them on the payment of compensation to the Girasdars. As the tenant cultivators had not the means to pay the compensation due to the Girasdars, a provision was made in the Act for the establishment of a co-operative land mortgage bank. The Saurashtra Central Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank was thus established on 6th September, 1951 with the specific purpose of providing necessary finance to the tenants to help them obtain the occupancy rights over the land held by them. By the end of 1956 the Bank advanced Rs. 25,534,771 to 50,907 tenants of the Girasdars in Saurashtra. In Bhavnagar district the Bank advanced Rs. 5,455,920 to 12,340 tenants between 1951-52 and 1955-56. The Bank opened branches at all the community project centres in the region for making long term advances for agricultural improvement when the government transferred to it the work of granting developmental loans to the cultivators. Accordingly in June, 1955, the Bank opened its branches at Savarkundla and Lathi (now in Amreli district) in Bhavnagar district.

After the formation of Gujarat as a separate State, the area of its operation was extended to cover the entire State from May, 1960. From this date onwards, it has been functioning as an apex institution and renamed as Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank in 1964.

The entire work of providing long term finance under the Five Year Plans is handed over to this Bank. In Bhavnagar district the Bank had 12 branches one each at every taluka/mahal headquarters.

The purposes for which the loans are granted by the Bank are : (1) construction of new wells and repairs to old ones, (2) purchase of oil-engines, electric motors and pumping sets, (3) purchase of tractors, (4) bunding, (5) construction of farm houses and machine rooms, (6) redemption of old debts, and (7) other allied purposes.

The following statement gives detailed information regarding membership, share capital, loans advanced and recoveries made by the Bank during 1960-61 to 1963-64.

STATEMENT VI·11

Working of Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank, 1960-61 to 1963-64

Sl. No.	Particulars		1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1	Number of branches ..		10	11	11	12
2	Number of members ..		27,559	29,651	35,193	43,896
3	Share capital ..	Rs.	1,174,652	1,316,028	1,658,898	1,952,200
4	Loans advanced for :					
	(a) Construction of new wells and repairs to old ones	Rs.	869,096	576,036	2,219,047	1,408,153
	(b) Purchase of oil engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc.	Rs.	2,646,999	1,749,313	3,166,331	2,276,477
	(c) Purchase of tractors	Rs.	163,600	314,934	203,265	145,037
	(d) Contour bunding	Rs.	7,150	1,000	7,600	6,903
	(e) Construction of farm houses and machine rooms ..	Rs.	333,282	140,226	316,525	206,148
	(f) Redemption of old debts and other unclassified purposes	Rs.	133,203	23,975	145,378	272,642
	Total loans advanced ..	**Rs.**	**4,153,330**	**2,805,484**	**6,058,746**	**4,315,360**
5	Recoveries	Rs.	1,859,366	2,299,815	2,025,908	4,817,000
6	Loans due	Rs.	2,933,375	3,984,274	4,936,128	6,695,100
7	Of which overdue	Rs.	1,074,009	1,684,339	2,910,220	1,878,100

Source :
Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank, Rajkot

A very large amout of the money, i.e., a sum of Rs. 3,166,331 appears to have been advanced for the purchase of oil engines, electric motors and pumping sets, etc. Compared to the loans advanced in all the four years, those advanced during 1962-63 were the largest. Similarly the amount advanced for the redemption of old debts, i.e., Rs. 272,642 was the highest in 1963-64 as compared to others.

OTHER SOURCES

Small Savings

The various schemes of small savings have been devised by government mainly with a view to mobilise public savings and to raise funds for financing the development projects. It also encourages the habit of thrift

among the people. The scheme as an agency for the collection of private savings dates back to the First World War, 1914-18, when Government of India introduced postal cash certificates for the first time. During World War II, in 1943, the Government of India started post office National Savings Certificates Scheme with a view to mop up excess purchasing power of the people generated on account of increased War expenditure and also to check the inflation created by War conditions.

During the post-Independence period, the Government of India offered a wide range of securities under the small savings at attractive rates of interest as it saw great potentialities for developing them to a great extent to finance its diverse activities including the Five Year Plans. The securities floated are 12-Year National Defence Deposit Certificates, 10-Year Defence Deposit Certificates,[1] 15-Year Annuity Certificates and the Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme.

Yet another important source of small savings is the Post Office Savings Banks. On account of its wide net work extending up to the rural areas they have proved much useful in collecting the savings of the public. The attached statement besides illustrating the amount collected through the sale of different types of Small Savings Securities also shows the collection of Post Office Savings Banks in the district between 1960-61 and 1962-63.

STATEMENT VI-12

Small Savings, 1960-61 to 1962-63

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Year	12 Year National Plan Savings Certificates / National Defence Certificates			10-Year Treasury Savings Deposits / 10 Year Defence Deposit Certificates			15-Year Annuity Certificates		
	Gross	Dis-charged	Net	Gross	Dis-charged	Net	Gross	Dis-charged	Net
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1960-61	1,737	1,121	616	305	15	290	..	..	..
1961-62 ..	1,052	1,111	(-)59	203	169	34	3	1	2
1962-63	1,269	1,493	(-)224	229	23	206	..	..	..

Year	Cumulative Time Deposits			Post Office Savings Banks			Total		
	Gross	Dis-charged	Net	Gross Deposits	Dis-charged	Net	Gross	Dis-charged	Net
1	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1960-61 ..	15	..	15	4,843	3,266	1,577	6,900	4,402	2,498
1961-62 ..	36	..	36	6,503	4,313	2,190	7,797	5,594	2,203
1962-63 ..	59	..	59	2,336	5,228	(-)2,892	3,893	6,744	(-)2,851

Source :

Regional Director of Small Savings, Ahmedabad

1. National Defence Certificates and Defence Deposit Certificates were introduced with effect from 1st November, 1962, replacing the old National Plan series and the Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates respectively.

Contribution of the Post Office Savings Banks in tapping savings of the public seems to be the largest followed by the amount collected under National Defence Certificates. The year 1962-63 was a scarcity year and necessitated large withdrawals by the public.

The Prize Bonds and the Premium Prize Bonds,[1] floated in the country respectively in 1960 and 1963 also played an important role in collecting the savings from the public. They were issued in the denominations of Rs. 5 and Rs. 100. The amount realised through their sale by post offices and treasury offices in the district was Rs. 117,570 in 1961-62, Rs. 144,260 in 1962-63, Rs. 147,465 in 1963-64 and Rs. 80,930 in 1964-65 respectively.

Insurance

Agencies doing insurance business play an important role in tapping up a portion of the public savings through the collection of insurance premia. With the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has become the foremost and the largest single agency doing life insurance business in India. The Corporation was constituted by a parliamentary enactment in 1956 and was officially constituted on 1st September, 1956. From this date all insurance societies, Indian and foreign, ceased to carry on life insurance business anywhere in India. However, general insurance business which includes fire, marine, accident and the rest was kept open to private enterprise. Recently, however, a department known as the General Insurance Department, created within the Life Insurance Corporation from 1st April, 1964, carries on general insurance business and thus competes with other private companies doing similar business.

Under the organisation and administrative set-up of the Life Insurance Corporation, Bhavnagar district is placed under the territorial jurisdiction of the Western Zone, Rajkot division. The branch office of the Corporation is located at Bhavnagar and covers the whole district. The number of agents canvassing life insurance business in the district numbered 362 in 1963. The total business proposed and completed from 1st January, 1960 to 31st December, 1963 is shown below.

Total Business Proposed and Completed by the Life Insurance Corporation during 1960-63

Year	Proposed		Completed	
	No. of Proposals	Sum involved (in Rs.)	No. of Policies	Sum assured (in Rs.)
1960 ..	5,625	16,547,850	4,496	13,483,000
1961	4,730	15,615,950	3,041	9,629,450
1962	4,785	16,786,650	4,021	13,835,375
1963	4,488	14,858,000	4,094	13,123,600

1. The sale of Prize Bonds was discontinued from 31st December, 1964.

The table reveals continuous increase in the number of policies issued and sums assured except in 1963 which happened to be a scarcity year. During the last two years the Corporation collected life insurance premia to the extent of Rs. 2,401,719 in 1962 and Rs. 2,728,768 in 1963.

The activities of the General Insurance Department of the Corporation resulted in the collection of premia to the extent of Rs. 31,252 in 1964-65 from 201 policy holders of different types such as fire, motor and miscellaneous. There was no collection towards marine insurance in this particular year. As the department has been recently started the quantum of work done by it is comparatively small. It might play greater role in due course.

Private and Public Limited Companies

The operations of limited companies, private and public, excluding banks and insurance companies play an important role in attracting public and private savings to finance different types of economic activities undertaken by them. Their function also is to attract and canalise savings of the people to finance such diverse activities as manufacturing, trading, transport and the like for which they are organized. Company finance thus constitutes an important aspect in the study of financial resources in the economy of a district.

Private Limited Companies

There were 44 private limited companies in the district in 1961. Out of these, 13 were registered prior to Independence. The oldest of them was registered as early as 1940. A classification of these companies according to the nature of business transacted by them and their paid-up share capital as on 31st March, 1961, is given below

Private Limited Companies—Classified by Industries

Sl. No.	Industries	No. of concerns	Paid-up share capital (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1	Managerial services	6	216,184
2	Salt manufacturing and chemical works	9	2,255,000
3	Trading concerns	5	226,000
4	Textiles	4	2,113,000
5	Investment and trusts	4	970,000
6	Transport	3	196,000
7	Iron and steel works	2	509,000
8	Electrical manufacture	2	586,400
9	Oil mills	2	850,000
10	Mining and stone quarrying	2	220,000
11	Ginning and pressing	1	250,000
12	Bone and Fertiliser Co., Ltd.	1	120,000
13	Printing and publishing	1	17,000
14	Miscellaneous	2	1,050,000
	Total	**44**	**9,578,584**

Public Limited Companies

The public limited companies have an advantage over the private limited companies in that whereas the private limited companies sometimes suffer from paucity of funds, the public limited companies invite the public at large to invest their savings in the shares issued by them. In the case of public limited companies investment is generally spread fairly widely. In 1961 there were 17 such companies in the district, of which as many as 11 were registered prior to Independence. These companies are classified below according to the nature of business transacted by them along with their paid-up share capital.

Public Limited Companies—Classified by Industries

Sl. No.	Industries	No. of concerns	Paid-up share capital (in Rs.)
1	Textiles	3	8,900,000
2	Electrical works	3	5,342,400
3	Ginning and pressing	2	540,625
4	Oil mill	1	2,498,800
5	Public dairy	1	308,100
6	Sugar mill	1	1,382,600
7	Chemical works	1	1,447,275
8	Pottery works	1	1,120,000
9	Managerial service	1	384
10	General Insurance Co.	1	75,000
11	Transport company	1	10,000,000
12	Merchant association	1	10,200
	Total	**17**	**31,625,384**

Salt manufacturing and chemical works occupied a pride of place in the private limited companies. Out of total paid up capital of Rs. 9,578,584 of all such concerns numbering 44, the two accounted for Rs. 2,255,000 or 23 per cent. Among the public limited companies, transport company ranks first followed by textiles and electric works. It is interesting to note that though the number of private limited companies (44) was more than that of public limited companies (17) in the district, the total paid-up capital of the latter was more than three times the capital invested by the former. Whereas the average paid-up share capital of a private limited company was Rs. 217,695, that of a public limited company came to Rs. 1,860,317, more than eight times the former.

Financial Assistance to Industrial Development

BHAVNAGAR STATE

Picture of an industrial Saurashtra prior to Independence was far from satisfactory. Despite good potentialities of mineral, marine and agricultural resources, not many industries could develop in this region as compared to the progress made in the adjoining State of Bombay. Among several reasons for this lag, general shyness of capital on account of insecurity of investment in Princely areas was the chief factor. Bhavnagar, however, was among the

progressive States that made all possible efforts to encourage industrial development by grant of concessions and facilities for the establishment of new Industries. These concessions varied from State to State and usually consisted of some sort of monopoly, rebate in certain levies and octroi duties, concessional railway freights, lease of land at nominal rent, financial assistance, cheap water supply, etc. Absence of Income tax was another advantage. As a result of these attractions, textile mills, pottery works, cement works, chemical concerns, iron and steel works, oil mills, etc., came into existence in the former Bhavnagar State.

SAURASHTRA

Immediately after integration, Saurashtra Government took a number of measures to promote industrialisation by encouraging establishment of a number of small and large industries in the region. Besides provision of land and power at concessional rates, the Saurashtra Industrial Finance Corporation was set up in September, 1953, with an authorised capital of Rs. 2 crores. This Corporation was established to look after those large industries which could not get loans from the Industrial Finance Corporation of India. Small Scale and Cottage Industries Board, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Handloom Board, etc , were also set up to encourage the growth of small scale and cottage industries and provide the necessary finance. With the merger of Saurashtra State in the Bombay State in 1956, financial assistance to industries came to be given under various schemes then in force in Bombay State.

GUJARAT

In 1960, consequent upon the bifurcation of the Bombay State, a separate State of Gujarat came into existence. The Government of Gujarat has taken various steps to cater to the financial needs of industries which will be reviewed below in brief.

Financial Assistance to Cottage Industries

As an effective antidote to the problem of unemployment and under-employment small scale and cottage industries are receiving increasing attention and patronage from the government. The decision to develop these industries on a co-operative basis was also endorsed by the Planning Commission which suggested that well marked fields which are not encroached upon by large scale industries may be reserved for them. To implement such a policy, the Co-operative Department of the State Government has been entrusted with the task of developing and providing financial assistance to industries by appointing the Registrar of Co-operative Societies also as the Director of Cottage Industries in the State.

Financial assistance is given to the cottage industries by the Department under different schemes which can broadly be divided into two groups :

(a) scheme for giving financial assistance to individual artisans and entrepreneurs, and (b) scheme for giving financial assistance to industrial co-operative societies. Under the first scheme, financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 2,000 and 3,000 is given to the educated unemployed, bonafide craftsmen and backward classes artisans for the purpose of starting or developing cottage industries. In case of joint applications financial assistance is extended up to Rs. 6,000. 25 per cent of such assistance is treated as subsidy. Under the second scheme, financial assistance is given to different kinds of co-operatives like forest labour, labour contract, handloom weavers, silk weavers, dyeing and printing, oil *ghanis*, cane and bamboo, tanners, carpentry and smithy, pottery and bricks, coir and rope, *neera* and palm *gur* societies, for purchase of tools and equipments. 50 per cent of the financial assistance sanctioned is treated as subsidy in deserving cases.

Bhavnagar has its own importance in the field of cottage industries like metal work of Sihor, iron work and handloom weaving of Kundla, toys and lacquer work of Mahuva and Bhavnagar and wood carving of Palitana. The details of financial assistance provided to the cottage industries in the district during the years between 1960-61 and 1963-64 are given below.

Year	Units assisted	Amount advanced: Loan (in Rs.)	Subsidy (in Rs.)	Share contribution (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1960–61	27	27,232	425	10,000
1961–62	8	57,805	3.300	..
1962–63 . ..	1	17,500	...	..
1963–64	11	11,650	.	..

Financial Assistance under Pilot Scheme

Financial assistance is provided also by the State Bank of India and its subsidiaries to small scale industrial units under the 'Pilot Scheme'. The scheme was first introduced in April, 1956 at certain selected centres and later extended all over India. Credit facilities are provided for the purchase of raw materials including those in the process of production and the finance required for holding the products pending sale. Such advances, as are made for supplementing working capital, are granted for six months, renewal facility being provided in suitable cases. The rate of interest charged by the Bank depends on the nature of advances made and usually varies from 7 to 8½ per cent per annum.

The following statement shows the amount granted by the State Bank of Saurashtra (which is a subsidiary to the State Bank of India) under this scheme to different types of industries in the district during 1961, 1962 and 1963 (ending on 31st December).

STATEMENT VI·13

Advances by the State Bank of Saurashtra to Small Scale Industries, 1961-63

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Type of industry	1961 No. of units assisted	1961 Limits sanctioned and in force	1962 No. of units assisted	1962 Limits sanctioned and in force	1963 No. of units assisted	1963 Limits sanctioned and in force
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Handloom and textile, cotton, silk and wool, rugs, carpets and hosiery .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	200
2	Leather products, concerns manufacturing boots, shoes, etc. . ..	Nil	Nil	1	30	1	30
3	Engineering, cutlery, automobile and coach building .	1	10	1	125	1	125
4	Printing, bookbinding and lithography .	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	45
5	Pottery, utensils, brass and other metal ware ..	16	350	15	328	9	253
6	Bricks, roof tiles and lime, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	20
7	Steel goods (trunks, buckets, tin containers, etc.)	2	110	2	110	7	395
8	Paper making	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	45
9	Soap making	Nil	Nil	1	130	4	85
10	Manufacture of plastic products . ..	1	25	1	75	1	75
11	Manufacture of paints	Nil	Nil	1	25	1	25
12	Manufacture of chemicals .	1	55	1	45	1	45
13	Others (i.e., Bobbins, steel re-rolling shuttle tongue, etc.)	5	170	8	1,715	9	1,725
	Total .. .	**26**	**720**	**34**	**2,583**	**44**	**3,068**

Source :

State Bank of Saurashtra, Bhavnagar

Credit Guarantee Scheme

Government of India is also trying to encourage and foster the growth of small scale industries by sharing the risk with some of the credit supplying agencies. Lending institutions, particularly the banks, are reluctant to supply credit to small scale industries mainly due to the larger amount of risk involved therein. With a view to encourage these credit supplying agencies to advance more liberally to the small scale units, Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, formulated a scheme, known

as the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme' which came into force from July 1st, 1960. The scheme provides for sharing of losses between the Government of India and the lending institutions. Reserve Bank of India is entrusted with the administration of the scheme as an agent of the Government of India. Till the end of December, 1962, the scheme was in operation only in selected districts of the country but it has been extended to cover the whole country from 1st January, 1963.

In the year 1963 the State Bank of Saurashtra availed of the facility and obtained such guarantee from the Reserve Bank to the extent of Rs. 1,505,000 in respect of advances to 17 small scale units in the district.

Gujarat Small Industries Corporation

Gujarat Small Industries Corporation Ltd., was incorporated as a public limited company on March 26, 1962 with an authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakhs. The government not only subscribed 40 per cent of the share capital of the Corporation but also guaranteed dividend to shareholders at the rate of 4 per cent per annum. The aim of the Corporation is to assist, protect and promote interests of small scale industries in the State, to provide technical and managerial assistance and help in the procurement of raw materials, machinery, equipment, tools and appliances. It assists small industries (i) by providing raw materials, (ii) by importing in bulk against actual users' import licences held by small scale units, (iii) by supplying machinery on hire purchase basis and (iv) by marketing the products of small scale units.

Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation

The Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation was started in 1962 with a view to give impetus to the development of industries. Its functions are : (1) to establish and manage industrial estates at places selected by the government, (2) to develop industrial areas selected by government for the purpose, (3) to develop lands on its own account or for the State Government for the purpose of facilitating the location of industries, (4) to undertake schemes or works either jointly with other corporate bodies or institutions or with government or local authorities or on an agency basis.

In this district it has been decided to set up an industrial area near Bhavnagar city for which land admeasuring 1,300 acres has been earmarked.

Gujarat State Financial Corporation

The Gujarat State Financial Corporation was established under the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, on May 1st, 1960 by the Government of Gujarat. The main object of the Corporation is to provide financial accommodation to small, medium and large industries for acquiring capital and productive assets like land, buildings, plants and machinery for purpose of expansion, renovation and modernisation of existing as well as for

development of new industrial enterprises. Such loans are granted usually for a period of 7 to 10 years. The Corporation is also acting as an agent to the State Government and as such is delegated the authority to receive, consider, sanction and disburse loans exceeding Rs. 11,000 up to 25,000 under the State Aid to Industries Rules, from the funds placed at its disposal by the government. Loans over Rs 25,000 but below Rs. 1,000,000 are granted to all industrial concerns other than public limited companies or registered co-operative societies. The latter are eligible for loans up to Rs. 2,000,000 which the Corporation sanctions from its own funds and under its own rules and regulations. The following statement shows the total number of applications received and sanctioned and the amount applied for and sanctioned by the Corporation in Bhavnagar district since its inception till 1963-64.

The Gujarat State Financial Corporation

Period	No of applications received	Amount involved (in Rs.)	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount involved (in Rs.)
On General Basis				
October 1960 to 31st March, 1962 ..	4	593,000	3	195,000
1962-63 .. .	2	136,500	1	60,000
1963-64 — — .	2	110,000	1	45,000
Under Agency Agreement with the Government				
October 1960 to 31st March, 1962	18	586,400	9	275,000
1962-63 — — .	.	—	1	20,000
1963-64	3	60,000	1	20,000
Total . . .	**29**	**1,485,900**	**16**	**915,000**

Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

This Corporation was established as a privately owned financial institution to encourage and assist industrial investment in India. The need for such an institution had been felt for a long time. India had, by 1951 when planning was ushered in, scratched only the surface of the problem of industrialisation which covered a few primary and consumer goods industries like cotton and jute textiles, sugar, cement and plantation industries like tea and coffee, many of them owned by foreign interests. The industrial framework was thus not geared to the job of carrying a rapid industrial revolution through private effort. It was under these circumstances that negotiations for the formation of a finance institution began. The World Bank (IBRD), as a first step, sent a delegation headed by Mr. George Woods, now its President, to India " to explore the possibilities of establishing a privately owned and operated development Corporation to finance the expansion and modernisation of private industry". As a result of these

deliberations, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India was established as a private limited company in January, 1955.

The Corporation's authorised capital is Rs. 25 crores. The paid-up share capital of Rs. 5 crores is subscribed by Indian banks, insurance companies, directors of the Corporation and their friends and associates, the general public, foreign financial agencies and subscribers in U. K. and U. S. A. The capital of the Corporation is further supplemented by borrowings from the Government of India, the World Bank, the Agency for International Development (U.S.A.) and West Germany.

The Corporation advances loans to industries in the private sector. These loans are secured either against assets of the company or guaranteed by banks or insurance companies. No guarantee is required for loans amounting to Rs. 37,254. In Bhavnagar district the Corporation advanced a loan of Rs. 2 lakhs to a ceramic factory during 1964. Repayable in 1968, the loan carries an interest of 6½ per cent per annum. Another loan to the extent of Rs. 1.70 lakhs was also sanctioned to this unit in 1965 carrying an interest of 7 per cent per annum and also repayable in 1968. This factory has also availed of the facility of two other loans, secured through the Corporation from the Agency for International Development, which has advanced Rs. 4.24 lakhs and 2.55 lakhs respectively in 1964 and 1965. These loans carry interest at the rate of 7¼ per cent and are repayable in the year 1970.

In addition to the agencies providing finance to large, medium and small industries listed above, the following agencies set up by the Government of India to meet the financial requirements of industries deserve mention, though this district has not so far received any financial aid from any of them.

(1) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India was established in the year 1948 to provide medium and long term finance to industries promoted by public limited companies and co-operative societies engaged in the manufacture of goods, or in mining and power.

(2) The National Industrial Development Corporation started as a government owned private limited company in the year 1954, the Corporation is authorised to start new industries with government money in spheres where the size of capital required or the risks involved deter private capital and manage them at the outset with the ultimate aim of transferring them to private hands. The Corporation also secures foreign technical collaboration in preparing project reports concerning new industries.

(3) The Industrial Development Bank was established in July 1964 as an apex institution to co-ordinate the activities of other financial institutions as well as to provide direct financial assistance to industrial units to bridge the gap between the supply of and demand for medium and long term finance. As a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, the Industrial Development Bank of India has taken over the functions of

the Refinance Corporation for Industry from September 1964 and provides (a) refinance to a larger number of financial institutions and (b) direct financial assistance to industrial concerns in the form of granting loans and advances, subscribing, purchasing or underwriting issues of stocks, shares, bonds or debentures, guaranteeing deferred payments due from industrial concerns to third parties and loans raised by them in the open market or from other financial institutions.

Currency and Coinage

Bhavnagar State had, prior to the conclusion of a treaty with the British Government of India in 1840, issued copper coinage and a few silver coins. On September 8, 1840 an agreement was reached between Maharaja Wajesinhji and the British Government whereby the State withdrew its currency and introduced rupee coinage in the State. Since that date currency prevalent in the rest of the country in terms of rupees, annas and pies was legal tender up to April 1957, when decimal coinage in terms of rupees and paise was introduced in this district along with the rest of the country. For sometime both the old and new coins remained in circulation, till the old coins were progressively withdrawn. The present coinage consists of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 25 and 50 paise and one rupee equivalant to 100 paise. Currency notes are issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 100 and 1,000 rupees.

B—Trade and Commerce

In order to have a proper perspective of the condition of trade in Bhavnagar district, it is necessary to have a clear idea of the position, Bhavnagar formerly enjoyed in the maritime trade of Kathiawar. A review of the conditions prevalent in the past, as compared to those existing at present, will help appreciate the important position, Bhavnagar was able to secure in the peninsular trade because of its geographical location and fostering care of its rulers.

General

The sea-borne trade of Kathiawar up to 1880 could be described as more or less profitable. After 1880, however, various factors led to its decline. The more enlightened States of Kathiawar could not neglect for long the natural advantages accruing to them from the expansion of the entrepot trade consequent on the development of their ports which offered the added attraction of increasing customs revenue. Other things being equal distance was bound to be a favourable factor leading to the expansion of trade at Saurashtra ports which were natural sea inlets and outlets for Gujarat, Rajasthan and north-west India including Delhi. Many of them enjoyed an additional advantage in so far as they were directly connected through the metre gauge railway system, thus avoiding transhipment and the resultant loss of time and money. Added to their natural

proximity to the hinterland, Kathiawar States had the advantages of cheap labour, comparatively lower land rents and easy availability of open space, and absence of direct taxes to be paid in most of them.

The maritime States of Kathiawar were enjoying customs rights, i.e., the right to levy, collect and retain the customs revenue from goods imported through the ports in their respective territories. Prior to railway construction and modern port development, this did not seriously affect the fiscal interests of the Government of India. That government was, however, conscious of the possibilities of future conflict. It had, therefore, entered into a treaty with Bhavnagar State in 1880 by which the latter agreed to impose at Bhavnagar port, tariff prevalent at the British Indian ports. In return Bhavnagar was entitled to the full benefits of a customs port, as no duty was to be levied on the goods re-exported outside Bhavnagar territories to British India. Other maritime States in Kathiawar were offered similar terms, but they refused to enter into similar treaty agreements with the British Government with the result that the Government of India imposed in 1905 Viramgam Customs Cordon whereby duties charged at British Indian ports were levied on all goods crossing Viramgam into British India. This cordon was applied to Bhavnagar State also in spite of an express treaty provision to the contrary. Trade at Bhavnagar port suffered heavily. The Bhavnagar Darbar represented their case to the Government of India but nothing was done till the year 1910, when Lord Morley, the then Secretary of State for India, accepted the plea advanced by the State and decided to lift the cordon for goods coming from Bhavnagar. The Viramgam Customs Cordon was withdrawn in 1917, when other maritime States of Kathiawar also agreed to levy at their ports customs duties not lower than those imposed in British India. The Government of India, however, made it abundantly clear that by virtue of their paramountcy rights they were free, whenever they so decided, to levy duties on all goods imported into British India, no matter what their source was. After many years the Kathiawar ports were left free to develop their maritime trade in their own way, resulting in vigorous port development and growth of trade. Fearing the effects of these measures on Bombay ports, the Government of India reimposed the Customs Cordon at Viramgam in1927. In spite of this trade at Kathiawar ports continued to increase both due to the natural advantages enjoyed by them and also because of the extra inducements given by the States, including financial advances to trade on easy terms. In 1936 the Government of India entered into yet another agreement with the maritime States of Kathiawar whereby the States were allowed to retain duties on goods crossing the frontier at Viramgam only up to prescribed limits on production of invoices and certificates issued by such States. This measure was also applied to Bhavnagar, though it was definitely against the letter and spirit of 1860 and 1866 treaties by which the Bhavnagar port enjoyed the status of a British Indian customs port. The Bhavnagar Darbar refused to comply with this proposal with the result that there was large decline in its import trade and its customs revenues.

On 15th August, 1947, the paramountcy of the British Crown over the Indian States lapsed and all the treaties and agreements between the Kathiawar States and the Government of India came to an end. By a Standstill Agreement between the rulers of Kathiawar and the Dominion of India, however, the old agreements relating to the customs continued. The existing state of affairs, however, did not accord with the new relationship between the States and the Central Government. The Viramgam Customs Cordon was, therefore, lifted by the Union Government in July 1948. It was simultaneously laid down that the Government of Saurashtra should agree to surrender all its customs rights and the administration of customs in its ports to the Government of India in lieu of compensation payable to the Saurashtra State. But with the coming into force of the Constitution in 1950 the right to levy customs duties and to manage major means of communications automatically passed to the Centre.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

Bhavnagar has long been famous as a trading centre. The port, situated on the eastern shore of peninsular Gujarat and on the west side of the Gulf of Cambay, about 325 km. north of Bombay is a natural harbour on the western sea board of India and from very early days it has had an enterprising and thriving commercial community trading far into the hinterland of India and across the seas. It was first mentioned as a port in the early part of the 18th century and has, for more than 200 years, been a port with interesting history behind it. Col. Walker described the port of Bhavnagar as the chief mart and channel of import and export trade of Kathiawar, Ahmedabad and Marwar. The port of Bhavnagar enjoyed the status of a British Indian Customs port. This gave it a distinct advantage over many of the ports of Kathiawar. To press this advantage, various measures were taken by the Bhavnagar Darbar for the development of its maritime trade.

A harbour development scheme was implemented by the Darbar in the year 1933. Bhavnagar, to-day is one of the well developed intermediate ports in the State. It is an all weather port open both to foreign and coastal traffic. In order to overcome the difficulty of siltation and to ensure floatation of the ships even with receding tides, a lock-gate was constructed in 1961 at a cost of Rs. 90 lakhs. The commercial importance of the port can be attributed to three factors (i) its geographical situation, (ii) provision of modern facilities and (iii) direct rail link with a vast hinterland which Bhavnagar serves. It is the nearest port to Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and many parts of Uttar Pradesh, particularly its western portion, and the Punjab.

The following extracts from the *Statistical Account of Bhavnagar*[1] describe the former trade of Bhavnagar port.

"Before the construction....of the B. B. & C. I. Railway the trade of Pali, Jodhpur, Sirohi, &c. in Marwar, of Udaipur in Mewar, of Jayapur,

1. WATSON J. W., *Statistical Account of Bhavnagar*, pp. 11-14

of Ujain and Ratlam, Burhanpur and Indore in Malwa, of Pent and Ahmedabad, Danta, Patan, Radhanpur, Palanpur, Wadnagar, Visalnagar, Sidhpur and other towns in Gujarat had some connections with the Bhavnagar port but above mentioned railway dried up all these channels, absorbing the entire trade. Bhavnagar also traded largely with the foreign ports of Mocha, Jiddah, and Maskat on the Arabian coast, Basrah in the Persian Gulf, Zanzibar, Lambu, Kumer, Mauritius and the Mozambique on the Africa coast and Singapur, Penang, China, Ceylon, and the ports of Karachi, Calicut &c. in India, but the trade with foreign ports materially diminished by 1873-74 when railways were introduced centering in Bombay, which port then proved the most attractive."

" When Bhavnagar was founded by Bhavsinhji, Surat was the great emporium of trade, and next to it came Cambay. At first but little trade was attached to Bhavnagar, owing to the opposition of the Sidi admiral residing at Surat, in whose hands the control as well as protection of the imperial trade was vested, and from the opposition also of the governor of Cambay. Bhavsinhji perceiving this, made a treaty with the Sidi, whereby a share in the customs of Bhavnagar was granted to him, after this the trade of Bhavnagar began to increase and became very extensive, and the town grew rich and populous. In about A. D. 1732 Sohrab Khan, the governor of Surat, on being expelled by Mulla Muhammad Ali, was invited by Bhavsinhji to Bhavnagar, as the former was supposed to have great influence at the court of Delhi, and showed him every attention. Soon afterwards Sohrab Khan, who was appointed collector of arrears in Sorath, expelled from Gogha, Sher Zaman Khan and Diler Khan Babi (sons of Salabat Khan Babi), and took its possession and granted a share in its customs to Bhavsinhji, his friend and ally, and himself went to Junagadh to take up Sorath Foujdari. He was slain thereafter in a battle near Dhandhuka in 1735 A. D. whereafter Gogha came to be held by Bhavsinhji and his descendants. Bhavnagar, by lowering its customs and making roads and encouraging merchants, obtained for itself a monopoly of the trade of neighbouring portion of the peninsula. Since then, while Gogha has stood still, Bhavnagar has never relaxed its efforts to promote the trade of its capital, aided by the progress of civilization, and the increasing cultivation of the interior, has now a trade of from Rs. 6,000,000 of imports, and Rs. 10,000,000 exports. "

As stated above, Bhavnagar had to face great competition from the neighbouring port of Gogha in the early years of 19th century but in the later half (of that century) it had already established its superiority over Gogha, on account of large sums of money spent for the development of this port on a sheltered and commodious creek. Its imports and exports began to take big strides. Imports increased from Rs. 1,294,427 in 1799-1800 to Rs. 6,368,066 in 1873-74 and its exports from Rs. 2,296,455 to 10,821,548

during the same period. The extension of the B.B. & C.I. Railway to Wadhwan and the construction of Bhavnagar—Wadhwan rail-link in 1880 led to the further concentration of foreign trade at bigger ports and to the decline of smaller ports unsuited to mechnical transport. 88 per cent of the total sea-borne trade of Kathiawar ports was concentrated only in 6 of them and more than 73 per cent was claimed by Bhavnagar, Mahuva and Veraval, Bhavnagar alone accounting for 44 per cent. Out of the 7,616, vessels visiting Kathiawar ports in 1880, 61 per cent arrived at Bhavnagar and of the 6,129 vessels leaving Kathiawar ports, 79 per cent left from Bhavnagar. The total import and export trade of the region in that year was worth four crores of rupees. The principal imports consisted of rice, cloth, sugar, metal and timber and exports were cotton, wool, grain, gold and silver.

In the early decades of the 20th century total trade rose in terms of value from Rs. 12,472,540 in 1902-03 to Rs. 48,081,063 in 1918-19. From 1920-21 to 1929-30 the trade returns showed a fluctuating trend. The total trade which was valued at Rs. 39,100,615 in 1920-21 increased to Rs. 57,084,017 in 1923-24 but fell to Rs 31,185,656 in 1929-30. From 1930-31 to 1944-45 a declining trend is discernible. The highest trade figures were, however, recorded in the year 1935-36 (Rs. 69,346,831) and the lowest in 1944-45 (Rs. 39,724,406). The downward trend from 1939-40 may be attributable to the policy of the Government of India which placed various checks on the customs rights of Bhavnagar. Introduction of an invoice form for goods passing by land from Bhavnagar State to British India inspite of the fact that they had paid customs duty at the British tariff rates at Bhavnagar port, adversely affected its trade. The total trade at the port, however, revived after Independence and showed a continuous increase from Rs. 52,952,965 (212,000 tons) in 1947-48 to Rs. 230,448,627 (601,024 tonnes) in 1963-64. The port of Bhavnagar registered the maximum traffic in this year among all the ports of Gujarat State. Moreover as compared to the year 1958-59 the increase in total traffic in 1963-64 exceeded one hundred per cent. This large increase in traffic during a short period of five years has helped Bhavnagar regain its position as an important port in Saurashtra.

EXPORTS

The export trade at the port showed a continuous increase; from Rs. 3,570,552 in value in 1902-03 to Rs. 12,394,761 in 1909-10. Between 1910-11 to 1919-20 the total export trade which was worth Rs. 15,623,448 in 1910-11 declined to Rs. 4,765,841 in 1919-20. During the next decade export trade revealed a fluctuating trend: from Rs. 17,538,528 in 1920-21 it increased to Rs. 34,050,422 in 1923-24 but declined to Rs. 17,251,821 in 1929-30. A further decline from 1930-31 onwards lasted till 1942-43 when it sank as low as Rs. 1,419,498 It, however, revived thereafter and rose to Rs. 12,440,553 in 1944-45. Decline during the Second World War was due to the restrictions placed by the Government of India on exports to some

of the European countries, Japan, Siam and Indo-China. The export trade revived after Independence and increased from Rs. 28,786,881 (148,694 tonnes) in 1960-61 to Rs. 80,070,612 (188,720 tonnes) in 1963-64.

Notable exports from this port during the year 1963-64 were salt, oil cake, groundnut oil and iron and steel. Export of salt, which was 50,089 tonnes during 1962-63, rose to 85,884 tonnes in 1963-64. On account of dock labour difficulties at the port of Calcutta, no export of salt took place from Bhavnagar to Calcutta during 1963-64. Though export of oil cake declined from 58,941 tonnes in 1962-63 to 41,811 tonnes in 1963-64, that of groundnut oil increased from 18,800 to 32,284 tonnes during the same period. Groundnut oil, seed and cake, have been in great demand even in foreign countries and their export has earned the country valuable foreign exchange. Groundnut oil to the extent of 322,884 tonnes was exported to: the United Kingdom (6,677 tonnes), Europe (11,673 tonnes), Japan and other countries (9,797 tonnes) and Persian Gulf (368 tonnes), where groundnut seeds were also exported.

IMPORTS

The total import trade during 1901-02 and 1933-34 reveals on the whole a steady increase; from Rs. 8,901,988 in 1902-03 to Rs. 19,753,511 in 1919-20, and to Rs. 44,355,806 in 1933-34. From 1934-35 to 1943-44 imports showed a downward trend and reached its lowest at Rs. 18,825,729 in 1943-44. It started reviving from the next year when it stood at Rs. 27,283,853 till it rose to Rs. 150,378,015 (412,304 tonnes) in 1963-64.

An interesting feature of the development of maritime trade at Bhavnagar port in recent times is the import of American cotton (28,725 bales) in 1963-64. This diversion of traffic from Bombay resulted in obvious economies in favour of Ahmedabad mills owing to shorter distance which considerably reduced the transport cost and time. For this purpose adequate fumigation facilities were also provided at the port. Similarly, foreign imports of foodgrains and pulses were the largest (208,397 tonnes) during the year 1963-64. Coke and coal imported to the extent of 124,421 tonnes were consumed mostly by the Western Railway, power houses and the port. Other important items of import include building materials, wood and timber (33,260 tonnes), kerosene oil (10,158 tonnes), iron and steel (4,400 tonnes), lubricating oil (4,129 tonnes) and fuel oil (2,306 tonnes).

Foreign trade of the port which was 139,326 tonnes or 40 per cent in 1961-62 increased to 317,942 tonnes or 48 per cent of the total traffic in 1963-64. Foreign imports contributed 217,053 tonnes and exports 100,889 tonnes. Since the opening of the lock-gate an increased number of steamers has called at the port, those taken within the lock-gate rising from 23 in 1961-62 to 96 in 1963-64. Statistics of imports and exports of the port are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT VI·14

Imports and Exports at Bhavnagar

(IN RUPEES)

Year	Imports	Exports	Year	Imports	Exports
1902–03 ..	8,901,988	3,570,552	1945–46 ..	24,193,341	21,416,426
1911–12 ..	12,277,893	19,337,071	1949–50 ..	83,640,706	17,900,924
1922–23 ..	28,700,276	23,865,393	1950–51 ..	116,804,866	25,141,621
1933–34 ..	44,365,806	20,616,334	1954–55 ..	68,702,870	37,184,501
1934–35 ..	42,631,618	26,695,983	1957–58 ..	86,122,766	50,310,041
1935–36 ..	31,758,800	35,225,801	1959–60 ..	53,306,441	70,592,541
1940–41 ..	16,080,197	4,565,765	1960–61 ..	55,518,184	28,786,881
1941–42 ..	17,711,357	1,491,468	1961–62 ..	48,673,786	65,475,615
1942–43 ..	17,652,934	4,741,739	1962–63 ..	98,683,416	77,523,094
1943–44 ..	18,825,729	13,263,117	1963–64 ..	150,378,015	80,070,612
1944–45 ..	27,283,853	12,440,553			

Source :

1. *Annual Administration Reports of Bhavnagar State,* 1902-03 to 1944-45
2. *The Port officer, Bhavnagar*

OTHER PORTS

Other ports in the district are Mahuva, Sartanpur (Talaja) and Gogha. Jafrabad and Port Albert Victor, which till recently formed part of Bhavnagar district, are included in Amreli district from July, 1959, when that district was reconstituted.

Mahuva

Mahuva called Moherak in ancient times is an important port situated on the Arabian Sea. Its merchants had trade relations with those in Muscat and Aden Trade in those days was confined to cotton, grain, *ghee*, seeds, coconuts, betelnuts, dry fruits, sugar-cane, metals, piece-goods, yarn and timber. Mahuva, to-day, is a non-intermediate port under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and its trade is confined to coastal traffic only. Its total trade between 1902-03 and 1923-24 showed an upward trend, when it rose from Rs. 3,370,786 to 8,784,783. Thereafter it declined to Rs. 4,592,321 in 1944-45. The total trade at the port increased more or less continuously since 1953-54, till it stood at Rs. 39,220,818 (54,388 tonnes) in 1963-64 of which exports accounted for Rs. 28,515,436 (25,688 tonnes) and imports Rs. 10,705,382 (28,700 tonnes). The present day imports include super phosphate, building materials, wood and timber, cotton seeds, kerosene, hardware, iron and steel, oil cake, foodgrains, lubricating oil, piece-goods, coir yarn, etc. Articles exported are groundnut oil, groundnut seeds, oil cake, salt, onion, castor and other oil seeds, foodgrains, fruits, stone, raw cotton, *ghee*, etc.

It is worth while to note here that imports of sugar, paints, colours and coir yarn at this port were the maximum in all the ports of Gujarat State in 1963-64. Similarly exports of twist and yarn were also the maximum in all the ports of the State during that year. Though there were no foreign exports from this port during 1963-64, Mahuva exported 114 and 97 tonnes of onions in 1961-62 and 1962-63 to foreign countries.

Sartanpur (Talaja)

The port of Sartanpur is a minor port situated at a distance of about 10 km. from Talaja, the taluka headquarters, used only for coastal traffic. The present day articles of imports are wood and timber, building materials, cotton seeds, foodgrains and miscellaneous articles. Exports consist of onions, clay, salt, groundnut oil, foodgrains and miscellaneous articles. The total trade in 1954-55 which was to the tune of Rs. 1,655,778 increased to Rs. 5,427,600 in 1960-61 but declined to Rs. 2,180,760 in 1963-64. The highest exports recorded in recent times were Rs. 3,657,804 in 1960-61 as against imports Rs. 1,769,706 in the same year. During the year 1963-64 exports of onions to the extent of 5,186 tonnes was the maximum at this port in the whole of Gujarat State.

Gogha

Gogha, the mahal headquarters, is situated in the south-east corner of the peninsula of Saurashtra, 13 km. from Bhavnagar and about 64 km. from the head of the Gulf of Cambay. Gogha was a historical port of importance during the 14th and 15th centuries. At that time it was once conquerred by Mokhdaji Gohil but Muhammadans conquerred it from him. The Portuguese also exercised power over this port, though indirectly, by their supremacy over the sea-waters of the Gulf of Cambay. The Gazetteer of Ahmedabad (1897; pp. 88, 91) observes, "In vain did Gogha sailors try to avoid Portuguese cruisers by keeping out to sea and passing on their way to Malacca and Sumatra through the Maldive Islands through the south of Ceylon. Their rich cargo fell a prey to the Europeans at every point, and in 1531 Saldana, penetrating to Gogha itself, destroyed the town together with fifteen of the largest prows laden with spices". Further on, it states, "Towards the end of the 17th century, trade began to decline on account of silting up of the Gulf of Cambay and at the end of 18th century little or nothing remained except occasional shipments of salt. cotton, and other agricultural produce from the western districts to the ports lower down the coast. Left to herself Gogha fell a prey to successive adventures, and even after she became nominally subject to the Peshwa, his administration in so remote a place was too weak to counteract the great local influence of the Raval of Bhavnagar, who spared no pains to draw all the trade that still lingered on that side of the Gulf to his own newly founded capital. Thus the workhouses of Gogha were deserted and its famous seamen had, by the beginning of the nineteenth century, become only a shadow of what they once were."

Imports generally exceeded in value the exports at Gogha. Imports were the highest (Rs. 708,322) in 1914-15 as against exports (Rs. 463,936) in 1922-23. Downward trend set in thereafter. In 1956-57 the volume of trade was 13,216 tons which declined further to 6,590 tons in the subsequent year, but revived to 12,675 tonnes in 1963-64. Gogha gradually lost all its former importance and is to-day only a minor port engaged in coastal traffic. The present day imports are animals, clay, wood and timber, cotton seeds and

other miscellaneous articles. Exports include clay, animals, onions, stones and other miscellaneous articles.

CENSUS STATISTICS

The 1961 Census shows that the population engaged in trade and commerce accounted for 25,722 workers (males 24,798; females 924), of whom 16,867 were from urban areas and the rest from the rural. The statistics also revealed that persons engaged in wholesale trade numbered 1,675, while retail trade provided employment to 22,403 persons. Preponderance of retail traders among those engaged in trade and commerce is obvious. Even among the retailers, it is the categories relating to the essential basic needs of the people in the shape of food and clothing which claim the largest number of retailers followed by tobacco and tobacco products like *bidi* and cigarettes. Trading and commercial activities being for the most part an urban activity. over 60 per cent live in towns, females being attracted the least to this branch of industry.

WHOLESALE TRADE CENTRES

Bhavnagar, Botad, Mahuva, Palitana and Savarkundla are the wholesale trade centres in this district. Of these, the last four are centres of regulated markets. Merchants at the wholesale trade centres sometimes act as commission agents. Such charges as commission, weighing, *hamali*, etc., are recovered on commodities sold.

Bhavnagar

Of all the trade centres in the district, Bhavnagar is the most important. Its importance as a port and a famous trade centre has been described at length in the portion relating to the sea-borne trade. Bhavnagar is the chief receiving and distributing centre not only for the district but also for other parts of the region. Goods received at Bhavnagar are exported throughout the peninsula. The diversified character of industries located at Bhavnagar and the interest taken by the former State regime have helped in making it one of the most developed centre of industry and trade in the region. New industries have also sprung since Independence. The proposed Bhavnagar-Tarapur railway, if constructed, is expected to promote industrial development and result in the economic upliftment of the region by curtailing the distance between Bhavnagar and other parts of Gujarat still further.

Cereals like wheat, rice, *bajri*, and *jowar* and pulses like *mug*, *tur*, *udid* and gram as well as sugar, groundnut oil and tea were the principal commodities of wholesale trade. Their turnover amounted to 805,000 quintals valued at Rs. 40,393,000 in 1963.

Botad

Botad is another important trade centre in the district. It is a junction station both on the Surendranagar-Bhavnagar as also Botad-Dhola-Jetalsar-Porbandar metre gauge railway lines of the Western Railway. Cotton and

groundnut are the main products of the place, which is also a centre of regulated market. Cereals, pulses and groundnut oil to the extent of 520,450 quintals valued at Rs. 14,130,000 were sold wholesale during the year 1963.

Palitana

Palitana, the famous religious centre of the Jains at the foot of the sacred Shatrunjaya Hills, is also an important trade centre. It is approached both by rail and road from Bhavnagar. Once the capital of the former Palitana State, it is one of the principal centres of trade in grain, cotton, chillies, *gur*, etc., and also has a regulated market and market yard. The total turnover of the commodities sold at Palitana amounted to 97,200 quintals valued at Rs. 7,073,000 in 1963.

Savarkundla

Savarkundla, the taluka headquarters, is situated on the river Navli. It is connected both by rail and road. The Mahuva-Kundla-Dhasa metre gauge railway line passes through the town. Cotton, groundnut, *gur*, wheat, *mug*, sesamum and *bajri* are the main commodities of trade. A market yard is also located at this centre. The turnover of *gur*, sesamum, wheat, cotton, *mug*, and *bajri* amounted to 154,650 quintals valued at Rs. 7,146,550 in 1963.

SALES TAX STATISTICS

The following statement gives an idea about the volume of business done by registered dealers in the district during 1963-64. Since the turnover of most of the shops in the district did not reach the minimum prescribed for registration under the Sales Tax Act, quite a good number of shops was outside the scope of the statement.

STATEMENT VI·15

Registered Dealers and their Total Turnover for the Year, 1963-64

Food-stuffs and hotels		Clothing and consumer goods		Building materials, timber furniture, etc.		Transport vehicles	
No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
826	349,524,596	426	61,571,070	378	46,800,544	234	4,018,224

Machinery and capital goods		Fuel and power		Industrial commodities		Miscellaneous		Total	
No. of registerd dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)	No. of registered dealers	Gross turnover (in Rs.)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
272	44,114,985	246	17,598,456	276	16,870,900	602	218,694,934	3,260	759,793,709

Source :

Sales Tax Officer, Bhavnagar

There were 3,260 dealers registered with the Sales Tax Department in the district during the year 1963-64. Their total turnover amounted to Rs. 759.793,709. Dealers in food--stuffs numbered 826 and had the largest turnover amounting to Rs. 343,524,596. Clothing and consumer goods followed with 426 dealers and a total turnover of Rs. 61.571,070. Next in importance were machinery and capital goods. Because of the inclusion of Bhavnagar city, Bhavnagar taluka had the largest number of registered dealers in almost all the groups of commodities accounting for 1,542 dealers and a total turnover of Rs. 499,056,049 or 65·67 per cent of the gross turnover of the district.

Retail Trade

Retail trade is carried on by a large number of shops located in the various towns and villages in the district and cater to the needs of their respective localities. Retail traders usually obtain their goods from local wholesalers. The stock in trade of the retailers is generally limited and depends upon their financial condition and local demand. But rapid replenishment is made as and when the old stocks are sold out. They obtain goods on credit from the wholesale traders and settle bills during the specified time limit, whereafter they have to pay interest on the amount of credit provided. The brisk season for trade is generally from October to June as the months of July to September which are monsoon months are comparatively dull, as celebration of social occasions is generally avoided during this period. Shops selling *pan, bidi,* tobacco, etc., generally carry on normal business throughout the year. Transactions in retail trade particularly reach maximum during such festivals as Divali and marriage season. Retail sales are usually on cash basis but where customers are well-acquainted with the dealers, running accounts are kept and settled periodically.

The 1961 Census has returned 22,403 persons (males 21,516; females 887) as engaged in retail trade in the district, of whom 13,991 were from the urban areas and the rest from the rural. Retail trading in cereals, pulses, fruits, sugar, spices, oil, fish, dairy products, etc., occupied a predominant place employing as many as 7,234 persons or 32·29 per cent followed by trading in goods unspecified which engaged 5,599 persons or 25 per cent. The next important group which engaged 2,205 persons was trade in cloth of all types including piece-goods and other textiles. 1,797 workers were found engaged in making preparations of tobacco such as *bidis*, cigarettes and other connected products. Retail trading in food-stuffs like sweetmeats, condiments, cakes, biscuits and in other household equipments engaged respectively 927 and 948 workers. The rest of the groups engaged less than 500 workers and were, therefore, of lesser importance. The Census data further show that out of 22,403 workers engaged in retail trade, 6,142 or 27·42 per cent were employers, 3.272 or 14·60 per cent employees, 6,314 or 28·19 per cent single workers and 6,675 or 29·79 per cent family workers

Retail trade is generally distributed in the following groups (i) grocery shops which stock and sell such items as cereals, pulses, spices, *gur*, groundnut and sesamum oil, *ghee*, tea, coffee, condiments, dry fruits, baking soda, menthol crystals, saffron, catechu, *agarbatti*, etc., (ii) *pan-bidi* and tobacco shops, which are generally one-man establishments, sell *pan* (betel leaves), *bidi*, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, betel-nuts, catechu, menthol crystals, wax candles, match boxes and aerated waters, (iii) cloth and hosiery shops deal in all kinds of textiles, cotton, woollen, silk, nylon and terylene having a wide range of varieties in shirtings, coatings, sarees, dhoties, *malmal*, *chhint* and voiles and hosiery articles of all types, (iv) fuel and charcoal shops sell fire-wood and charcoal, (v) stationery and cutlery shops, (vi) fruits and vegetables shops, (vii) shops selling household utensils of brass, copper, aluminium, German silver and stainless steel, (viii) dealers in hardware and building materials, (ix) chemist shops, (x) sweetmeat and *farsan* makers and (xi) leather goods and footwear shops.

REGULATED MARKETS

The Indian agriculturist suffers from many handicaps in marketing his surplus produce. Because of his traditional ignorance which is chiefly due to illiteracy, he had to rely heavily on the middlemen. The middleman, in turn, often acted as money-lender and advanced loans to the cultivator for a variety of purposes, productive and unproductive. However, in a majority of cases such loans were meant for unproductive purposes, such as social occasions, repayment of old debts, etc. The money-lender sometimes advanced loans on the condition that the cultivator should sell the produce to him at a rate fixed in advance. The result was that the entire produce was wiped out in repaying the dues to the money-lender and the cultivator had no alternative but to incur fresh debt. The vicious cycle was thus repeated year after year and turned the cultivator into a perpetual debtor.

In order to overcome these disadvantages and to ensure a fair deal to the cultivator in marketing his produce, regulated markets were established under the Saurashtra Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1955 within the revenue limits of Palitana, Savarkundla, Mahuva and Botad towns in 1956 and 1957, but they started working a little later. Important commodities regulated at these markets are wheat, *bajri*, *jowar*, *gur*, groundnut, paddy and pulses and also cotton at Savarkundla and Botad. Licence holders in these markets are traders (A, B & C class), commission agents, weighmen and *hamals*. Their total number was: Savarkundla 145, Mahuva 590, Palitana 199 and Botad 329.

TRANSACTIONS IN REGULATED COMMODITIES

Transactions during 1963-64 show that groundnut was by far the most important commodity brought for sale to the regulated markets and

accounted for 269,383; 77,941; 46,206 and 25,729 quintals respectively at Mahuva, Savarkundla, Botad and Palitana. Palitana and Botad were important centres of wheat, Savarkundla, for *bajri* (18,637 quintals), Botad for cotton (67,130 quintals) and Palitana and Savarkundla for *gur* (31,623 quintals and 18,327 quintals respectively).

Market charges

Market charges levied at the regulated markets are commission, weighing, etc. These are borne by the sellers (cultivators). Since all extra charges, such as quality allowance, charity (*dharmada*), free samples, etc., formerly exacted, have now disappeared, the agriculturists have the fullest return for the produce brought for sale.

Fair Price Shops

On account of the exigencies of the Second World War there was an abnormal rise in the price of essential commodities, viz., cereals, cloth, kerosene, etc. The government had, therefore, to take measures to check the inflationary trend of prices and black marketing by opening fair price shops for the sale of essential commodities at reasonable rates. Foodgrains are distributed on family ration cards which are to be registered with fair price shops, authorised by government. For this purpose government has established godowns at five places in the district, viz., Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Kundla, Botad and Palitana where foodgrains are stored and supplied to the authorised dealers. Fair price shops numbering 733 distributed wheat, rice, *jowar*, *bajri*, gram, gram *dal*, sugar, groundnut oil and kerosene during 1964-65.

The business transacted by these shops has progressively increased since 1962-63. The sale of wheat which was 50,487 quintals in 1962-63 rose to 400,729 quintals in 1964-65 and that of rice from 40,404 to 70,799 quintals during the same period. The total sale of the rest of the commodities amounted to 6,093 quintals valued at Rs. 430,524 in 1964-65.

Fairs

Fairs which are generally associated with important deities and religious festivals attract people from all social classes and afford ample opportunities for social, cultural and religious contacts. Their economic significance lay in the opportunities they offered for the display and sale of a large number of articles brought to these fairs. Though fairs enjoy considerable popularity even to-day their importance in modern times is on the decline owing to the availability of commodities of daily needs in the village or town itself. Quick mode of transport, spread of education, decreasing influence of religion and alternative means of recreation and entertainment have made fairs less popular and attractive than before and reduced their former utility.

Articles such as sweets, *farsan*, toys, tea, coffee, cold-drinks and aerated waters, cutlery, milk, vegetables, fruits, *pan-bidi*, cigarettes, clothes and ready made garments are brought and sold at the fairs. The former utility and economic importance of the fairs when the trading was brisk and considerable have almost vanished as people do not stand in the need of making purchases at the fairs as they used to do in the past for the simple reason that most of the articles are now a days available in the village itslef or can be purchased during their frequent visits to the urban areas. Activities significant from the point of view of trade are exhibitions organised at important fairs for exhibiting agricultural products, livestock and products of cottage industry. Cultural activities include *ras*, *garbas*, *bhajans*, sports competition and religious preachings.

Details of 57 fairs held in the district, with such particulars as name of the fair, occasion, place where it is held, date of the fair, number of persons attending the fair, activities, availability of transport facilities and castes and communities participating are given in Statement IV·16 at the end of this Chapter.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

The regulation of trade and industries in olden times was managed by guilds as is known from the Valabhi copper-plate grants which go to show that the system of guilds (*sreni*) prevailed in this region from the very beginning of the Maitraka rule. We are also told that the army of Bhatarka, the founder of Maitraka dynasty, consisted of various elements including guilds. This along with the mention of corporate activity among traders and craftsmen in the ancient literature of northern India and their organisation into guilds with the *sresthi* at the head, seems to suggest that the system which was probably introduced into the Valabhi Kingdom in its organised form gradually developed to perfection under the Maitrakas. The guilds thus served the purpose of protecting the interests of the indigenous traders and craftsmen against foreign competitors, of whom there were many at Valabhi.[1]

Important trade associations functioning in the district at present are : (1) The Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bhavnagar. (2) The Palitana Chamber of Commerce, Palitana, (3) The Mahuva Chamber of Commerce, Mahuva, (4) The Timber Merchants' Mandal, Bhavnagar. (5) The Bhavnagar, Merchants' Association Ltd., Bhavnagar, (6) The Cotton Merchants' Association, Bhavnagar, (7) Bhavnagar *Kapad* Association, Bhavnagar, and (8) Bhavnagar Small Industries Association, Bhavnagar. Of these, the last four are affiliated to the Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bhavnagar. There is also an unregistered Grain Merchants' Association at Bhavnagar.

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1. Virji K. J., *Ancient History of Saurashtra*, p. 221, 1955

THE SAURASHTRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The idea of starting a chamber of commerce representing commercial, trading and industrial interests was mooted during the Second World War, when commerce, trade and industry expanded enormously. Added to this was the importance of Bhavnagar as the chief trading centre and an excellent sea port, which held great prospects for the development of this region. The Bhavnagar Chamber of Commerce was established in 1943 to promote and safeguard the commercial, industrial and business interests of the trading community of this region. The Chamber also made noteworthy efforts for the removal of the Customs Cordon at Viramgam. The Chamber was represented on the Industrial Sub-committee appointed by the former Bhavnagar State in 1945. On the formation of the Union of Saurashtra in 1948, its area of activity widened and its name was changed into that of "The Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce". The Chamber is represented on the following committees : (1) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Commemoration Committee, (2) the State Advisory Committee for industries and Standing Advisory Committee for industries, (3) the Local Port Advisory Committee, (4) the Import Advisory Committee, Bombay, (5) the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Bhavnagar, (7) Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, (8) the State Employment Advisory Committee and (9) the Bhavnagar *Ghee* Testing Laboratory Advisory Committee. The Chamber is also represented on the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi and the International Chambers of Commerce, Paris (France).

THE MAHUVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MAHUVA

The Mahuva Chamber of Commerce was established in 1949 with a membership of nearly 125 business concerns of Mahuva representing mills, factories, timber and saw mills, gold and silver merchants, cloth merchants, hardware, iron and steel merchants and petroleum companies. It is represented on the following committees : (1) Mahuva Marketing Yard Committee, (2) Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee of the Western Railway, Bhavnagar Division, (3) Ports Advisory Committee and (4) The Sales Tax Advisory Committee.

BHAVNAGAR SMALL INDUSTRILS ASSOCIATION BHAVNAGAR

Bhavnagar Small Industries Association was established at Bhavnagar in February 1956 with a view to seek redress of the problems faced by small industrialists. The membership of the association is 200 which comprises such industries as textile accessories, powerlooms, foundries, chemicals, ferrous and non-ferrous metal industries, confectionery, etc. The activities of the association include (1) distribution of steam and hard coal to member industries, (2) assistance to members in securing raw materials, (3) arrangements for technical guidance and (4) helping members in getting financial assistance from government institutions and banks. The association has an

up-to-date library which contains books and other literature pertaining to small industries.

Timber Merchants' Association, Bhavnagar

The Timber Merchants' Association, Bhavnagar was established in 1953 (1) for further improvement of timber trade, (2) to secure necessary information for its progress and (3) to study government legislation in respect of trade and offer its views thereon.

Other associations mentioned at the outset also carry on similar activities in the district and help actively in the solution of problems affecting the mercantile community.

Consumers' Co-operative Movement

As a result of development of co-operative activity, a number of consumer stores have been opened in the district to supply to the consumers such articles as sugar, medicine, cloth (woollen and cotton) and stationery articles including books at fair and reasonable prices. In Bhavnagar district there is the Bhavnagar Central Consumers' Co-operative Store Ltd., Bhavnagar, and forty other primary consumers' co-operative stores, of which 25 are located in Bhavnagar city and the remaining in other urban areas of the district. The activities of these stores have progressively increased as seen from the figures given below.

Name of the store		Bhavnagar Central Consumers' Co-operative Stores Ltd., Bhavnagar		Primary Consumers Co-operative Stores	
Particulars		1963-64	1964-65	1963-64	1964-65
Membership . ..		18	22	4,365	6,378
Share capital	Rs.	85,900	107,700	87,030	117,808
Working capital .. .	Rs.	313,364	497,355	201,106	309,956
Sale of consumer goods ..	Rs.	1,448,747	2,898,914	1,637,070	3,344.732

Weights and Measures

The Statistical Account of Bhavnagar[1] describes the weights and measures used in that State in the following terms.

"Bhavnagar weights and measures correspond with those in general use in the surrounding British districts. The *sir* equivalent to one pound

1. Watson J. W., *Statistical Account of Bhavnagar*, p. 21, 1910

avoirdupoiz consists of forty tolas, each tola weighing one rupee, forty *sirs* make one *man* and 20 *mans* 1 *khandi* or *kalsi*."

This account shows that the denominations of weights and measures used in those days remained unchanged even after Independence and the merger of the State in the Union of Saurashtra. It was only after the formation, in 1956, of the bigger bilingual State of Bombay, wherein the areas now comprising the Saurashtra region and Kutch were integrated, that the Bombay Weights and Measures Act of 1958 was introduced to reduce to a uniform pattern the different types of weights and measures in vogue in different parts of the State. Experience had shown that the prevalence of different types of weights and measures used in the States of the Indian Union affected the smooth flow of the internal and external trade, owing to the difficulties of conversion into various units. While the major part of the world had long evolved a much simplified system of weights and measures, there was no uniformity in the system followed in the country *vis-a-vis* foreign countries. It thus created certain complications in trade dealings with other parts of the country and the world. Government of India, therefore, thought it proper to adopt the decimal system known as the metric system of weights and measures and introduce it throughout the country on a uniform basis with a view to eliminate the difficulties encountered in calculation and conversion. By this system the weight measures, the linear measures and the capacity measures were reduced to a multiple of ten. In Gujarat the use of metric measures has been made compulsory from April 1962 and its implementation has been entrusted to the State Directorate of Industries.

The salient features of the system are mentioned below.

1. Length is measured in metres instead of in yards: 1 metre = 1 09 yards.

2. Distance is measured in kilometres instead of in miles; 1 km. = 0.62 mile.

3. Weight is to be drawn into kilograms instead of pounds (lb.) or *seer*; 1 kg.--2.2 lbs. or 1.07 *seer* and quintal instead of a *maund*. 1 quintal = 5.38 mds.

4. Area of the land is now measured in hectares instead of in acres; 1 hectare= 2.47 acres.

5. Tola weights have been replaced by gram. One gram which is one-thousandth part of a kilogram is equal to 0.086 tolas.

6. Unit for valuable stones is carat; one carat which is one-fifth of the gram equals 0.017 tolas.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT

Ownership of Deposits, 1961

Deposits of	Rs. 50,000 and above		Between Rs. 10,000 and 50,000		Between Rs. 5,000 and 10,000	
	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A—Fixed Deposits						
1 Business	14	1,872	50	1,056	59	380
2 Personal	57	4,661	797	13,801	1,105	8,085
3 Public Institutions and Trusts	21	2,896	33	759	30	226
4 Others	16	3,660	38	728	70	480
Total	*108*	*13,089*	*918*	*16,344*	*1,270*	*9,171*
B—Current A/C Deposits						
1 Manufacturing concerns	2	208	27	391	27	202
2 Trading concerns	2	121	136	2,338	170	1,145
3 Personal	2	171	24	402	67	440
4 Banking Companies	16	2,002	1	11	4	28
5 Others	15	2,[illegible]97	34	711	37	277
Total	*37*	*5,099*	*222*	*3,853*	*305*	*3,092*
C—Saving A/C Deposits						
1 Business	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 Personal	..	..	238	3,363	1,210	7,487
3 Banking Companies		..	..	..	..	..
4 Others	..		19	324	100	622
Total	..	..	*257*	*3,687*	*1,310*	*8,109*
D—Other Deposits						
1 Manufacturing concerns	..	..	2	50	1	9
2 Trading concerns	1	60	12	206	2	15
3 Personal	..		34	578	48	330
4 Banking Companies	1	900	..	..	..	
5 Others	6	417	16	295	62	445
Total	*8*	*1,377*	*64*	*1,129*	*113*	*835*
Total Deposits	**153**	**19,565**	**1,461**	**25,013**	**2,998**	**20,207**
Category of Depositors						
1 Manufacturing concerns	2	208	29	441	28	211
2 Trading concerns	3	181	148	2,544	172	1,160
3 Personal	50	4,832	1,093	18,144	2,430	16,378
4 Banking Companies	17	2,902	1	11	4	28
5 Business	14	1,872	50	1,056	59	380
6 Public Institutions and Trusts	21	2,896	33	759	30	226
7 Others	37	6,674	107	2,058	275	1,824

VI·3

(ending on 31st December)

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Between Rs. 1,000 and 5,000		Between Rs. 500 and 1,000		Rs. 500 and below		Total	
No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
56	154	9	6	12	4	200	**3,472**
2,642	7,234	732	669	100	33	5,433	**34,483**
35	103	6	4	..	..	125	**3,986**
69	192	41	39	18	8	258	**5,107**
2,802	*7,683*	*788*	*718*	*130*	*45*	*6,016*	*47,050*
85	187	56	41	145	38	342	**1,067**
528	1,313	880	655	1,842	363	3,558	**5,935**
386	744	120	95	714	130	1,313	**1,982**
4	8	2	2	4	2	31	**2,059**
134	304	58	41	283	70	501	**4,000**
1,137	*2,556*	*1,116*	*831*	*2,988*	*602*	*5,805*	*15,037*
.	..			..	..	..	..
7,397	15,418	4,808	3,303	11,327	4,252	54,980	**33,833**
.	..	.	..	..	..	..	..
493	1,411	875	590	3,683	913	5,170	**3,860**
7,890	*16,829*	*5,683*	*3,893*	*45,010*	*·5,167*	*60,150*	*37,683*
2	6	3	2	12	2	20	**69**
8	15	1	1	58	7	82	**304**
126	296	112	88	465	93	785	**1,421**
..	..	..	..	..	-	1	**900**
25	92	1	1	10	5	120	**1,255**
161	*409*	*117*	*92*	*545*	*107*	*1,008*	*3,949*
11,990	**27,477**	**7,704**	**5,537**	**49,673**	**5,920**	**72,979**	**108,719**
87	193	59	43	157	40	362	1,136
536	1,328	881	656	1,900	370	3,640	6,239
10,551	23,692	5,772	4,155	42,606	4,508	62,511	71,709
4	8	2	2	4	2	32	2,953
50	154	9	6	12	4	200	3,472
35	103	6	4	..	..	125	3,988
721	1,990	975	671	3,994	996	6,109	14,222

STATEMENT

Ownership of Deposits, 1962

Deposits of	Rs. 50,000 and above: No. of accounts	Rs. 50,000 and above: Amount	Between Rs. 10,000 and 50,000: No. of accounts	Between Rs. 10,000 and 50,000: Amount	Between Rs. 5,000 and 10,000: No. of accounts	Between Rs. 5,000 and 10,000: Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A—Fixed Deposits						
1 Business	14	1,329	135	2,117	37	267
2 Personal	50	4,107	747	13,416	1,134	8,398
3 Public Institutions and Trusts	18	2,330	108	1,895	253	1,758
4 Others	24	5,088	36	708	140	930
Total	*106*	*12,854*	*1,026*	*18,136*	*1,564*	*11,353*
B—Current Account Deposits						
1 Manufacturing concerns	1	52	25	461	29	205
2 Trading concerns	8	600	143	2,574	175	1,231
3 Personal	2	145	35	511	48	306
4 Banking Companies	12	2,481	39	721	5	34
5 Others	31	2,273	35	611	48	294
Total	*54*	*5,551*	*277*	*4,884*	*305*	*2,070*
C—Savings Account Deposits						
1 Business	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 Personal	..	..	295	4,140	1,003	7,033
3 Banking Companies	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 Others	1	60	24	408	97	746
Total	*1*	*60*	*319*	*4,548*	*1,100*	*7,779*
D—Other Deposits						
1 Manufacturing concerns	2	230	..	..	..	..
2 Trading concerns	1	60	7	126	4	28
3 Personal	5	340	34	525	16	137
4 Banking Companies	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 Others	3	250	27	510	77	528
Total	*11*	*880*	*68*	*1,161*	*97*	*693*
Total Deposits	**172**	**19,345**	**1,690**	**28,729**	**3,066**	**21,895**
Category of Deposits						
1 Manufacturing concerns	3	282	25	464	29	205
2 Trading concerns	9	660	150	2,700	179	1,259
3 Personal	57	4,592	1,111	18,592	2,201	15,874
4 Banking Companies	12	2,481	39	721	5	34
5 Business	14	1,329	135	2,117	37	267
6 Public Institutions and Trusts	18	2,330	108	1,895	253	1,758
7 Others	59	7,671	122	2,240	362	2,498

VI·4

(ending on 31st December)

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Between Rs. 1,000 and 5,000		Between Rs. 500 and 1,000		Rs. 500 and below		Total	
No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount	No. of accounts	Amount
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
98	216	2	2	..	..	280	3,931
2,864	8,237	1,015	897	211	90	6,021	35,145
679	1,801	167	117	..	.	1,225	7,901
242	480	25	18	10	5	477	7,229
3,883	*10,734*	*1,209*	*1,034*	*221*	*95*	*8,009*	*54,206*
83	211	48	41	173	36	361	1,009
657	1,338	768	563	1,792	543	3,543	6,849
206	593	146	114	772	224	1,269	1,893
149	412	16	9	..	..	221	3,657
94	255	134	82	185	42	527	3,560
1,251	*2,809*	*1,112*	*809*	*2,922*	*845*	*5,921*	*16,968*
..	..	1	1	..	.	1	1
7,623	15,571	5,192	3,331	41,683	3,842	55,796	33,897
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
324	1,091	1,046	652	3,885	933	5,377	3,890
7,947	*16,662*	*6,239*	*3,984*	*45,568*	*4,775*	*61,174*	*37,788*
2	4	4	3	8	1	10	238
6	8	..	...	28	5	46	227
262	469	103	82	561	109	981	1,662
...	...	..	—	—	—	—	—
7	20	..	—	—	—	114	1,308
277	*501*	*707*	*87*	*597*	*115*	*1,157*	*3,435*
13,358	**30,706**	**8,667**	**5,892**	**49,308**	**5,830**	**76,261**	**112,897**
87	215	82	44	181	37	377	1,247
663	1,346	768	563	1,920	548	3,580	7,076
11,015	24,870	6,456	4,404	43,227	4,265	64,007	72,597
149	412	16	9	..	—	221	3,657
98	216	3	3	—	—	287	3,932
679	1,801	167	117	..	..	1,225	7,901
667	1,846	1,205	752	4,080	980	0,495	15,087

STATEMENT VI-7

Operations of Agricultural/Non-agricultural/Credit Societies, 1955-56 to 1961-62

Year	No. of socie-ties	No. of members	Share capital (in Rs.)	Working capital (in Rs.)	Loans advanced (in Rs.)	Overdue (in Rs.)	Deposits (in Rs.)	Reserve and other funds (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				A—Agricultural Credit Societies				
1955-56	455	27,540	1,152,088	7,151,310	6,407,282	518,178	1,165,960	597,509
1956-57	457	40,087	2,091,538	11,309,576	10,502,229	590,382	1,000,826	678,466
1957-58	454	47,345	3,646,697	19,284,033	17,189,119	1,626,823	983,313	843,631
1958-59	468	55,735	5,011,815	21,825,256	18,770,796	2,335,780	960,145	983,329
1959-60	412	50,511	[illegible]	23,498,890	16,513,157	6,449,908	971,519	1,267,291
1960-61	428	[illegible]	7,359,000	26,067,000	15,575,000	8,875,000	861,000	1,440,000
1961-62	457	55,487	8,619,606	31,539,125	16,710,017	8,581,199	923,870	1,745,813
				B—Non-agricultural Credit Societies				
1955-56	37	14,413	720,061	2,432,981	2,388,611	720,184	663,205	78,140
1956-57	66	19,192	941,250	3,552,673	2,968,000	828,000	915,229	108,300
1957-58	63	14,307	838,610	2,357,542	2,099,200	8,109,457	652,000	98,693
1958-59	65	18,392	943,486	2,738,887	2,336,000	742,439	793,035	113,863
1959-60	45	18,461	1,059,404	2,970,203	2,717,700	801,000	951,708	116,000
1960-61	50	28,127	1,745,460	5,022,000	3,861,000	1,310,000	1,608,000	236,000
1961-62	46	31,031	2,855,000	5,393,000	4,397,000	2,581,000	1,799,800	462,000

Source :

District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhavnagar

STATEMENT VI·9

Agricultural/Non-agricultural/Non-credit Societies, 1961-62

Sl. No. 1	Type of societies 2	No. of socie-ties 3	No. of mem-bers 4	Paid-up share capital (in Rs.) 5	Govern-ment loan (in Rs.) 6	Loan from other sources including C. F. A.* (in Rs.) 7	Working capital (in Rs.) 8
	A—Agricultural Non credit Societies						
1	Fruits and vegetables (Primary) ..	1	18	200	..	100	400
2	Marketing Societies ...	12	2,139	640,100	119,700	1,785,500	2,846,800
3	Milk Supply Societies ..	2	92	3,100	..	6,600	9,800
4	Poultry Societies ..	2	59	500	..	800	1,300
5	Farming Societies (Collective, Joint, Tenant and Better)	36	1,205	230,600	61,700	411,200	748,700
6	Lift Irrigation Societies ..	6	135	63,400	63,100	100	127,100
7	Others	22	798	162.100	5,000	337.600	551,100
	B—Non-agricultural Non-credit Societies						
1	Fisheries Co-operative Societies	3	69	2,400	–	2,300	4,800
2	Consumers' Co-operative Societies – –	21	4,413	102,400	..	157,000	315,900
3	Housing Co-operative Societies	107	3,875	767,700	1,661,600	68,800	2,601,300
4	Labour Contract Societies	16	566	20,500	..	24,700	59,900
5	Weavers' Societies ...	13	1,901	47,700	57,200	151,300	324,800
6	Tanner's and Leather Workers' Societies ...	22	382	14,600	200	47,000	04,200
7	Carpentry and Smithy Co-operative Societies –	6	142	28,500	..	10,500	13,100
8	Pottery and Metal Workers' Societies	11	283	17,000	..	38,200	76,000
9	District Industrial Co-operative association ..	1	102	23,400	25,700	20,800	75,300
10	Others	19	4,725	283,400	6,700	871,300	3,022,500

*Central Financing Agency

Source :

Annual Administration Report, Co-operative Department, Government of Gujarat, 1961-62

STATEMENT VI.16

Fairs, their Occasion, Site. Time, Congregation and Other Particulars

Sl. No. 1	Name / occasion 2	Place where held 3	Date of fair 4	Estimated congregation 5	Activities 6	(i) Nearest Railway Station (ii) Bus service 7	Castes / Communities participating 8	Remarks 9
	BHAVNAGAR TALUKA							
1	Bhadarvi Amas	Koliyak	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	20,000	Bhajans, duhas, competitions of ras, garbas and sports by B. D. O./Panchayat, exhibition. 100 stalls of sweets, fruits, toys, cutlery	Bhavnagar. 14 miles Bus	Mostly Hindus	Worship of Niskalank Mahdev on sea-coast. Pandavas were purified here of their sins of having killed their kinsmen in the battle of Mahabharat, since then the fair. Organised by the Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from the neighbouring villages. Police bandobast
2	Janmashtami	Bhuteshwar	Shravan Vad 8	5,000	Ras, agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. 10 stalls of sweets, fruits, toys	Bhavnagar. 10 miles Bus	Mostly Hindus, few non-Hindus or recreation	At the temple of Bhunath Mahadev which is 300 years old. Attended by people from the neighbouring villages
3	Hanuman Jayanti	Adhelai	Chaitra Sud 15	4,000	Youths sports competition. 10 stalls of eatables	Bhavnagar, 20 miles Bus	All communities	Birthday of Ekaliya Hanuman. Sea waters have stopped coming to low lying areas since the temple was constructed. Attended by people from 6 neighbouring villages

4	Bhadarvi Amas	Vartej	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas	800-1,000	Recreational programmes. 40-45 stalls of sweets, toys, garments, cutlery, cash crops	Railway Station Bus	All communities	Worship of Ganganath Mahadev. Pandavas visited this place 5,000 years ago after they were purified of their sins. Attended by people from 10 neighbouring villages
5	Janmashtami	Bhandaria	Shravan Vad 8	800	Hawkers of eatables toys	Railway Station Bus	Brahmin, Koli, Garasia	At the temple of Malnath Mahadev, attended by people from Bhadi, Sanodar, Nana-Khokhra, Ukharla and Trambak villages
6	Khodiar Mata fair	Nag Dhamamba	Paush Sud 15	500	Hawkers of sweets, toys, eatables	Bhandaria, 4 miles Bus	Mali (Hindu)	Organised by the pujari. Attended by people from Bhavnagar and Gogha
	Gogha Mahal							
7	Balamsha Pir Urs	Kharakdi	Shawwal, 9, 10, 11	5,000	Recreational programmes, film shows, by N. E. S. Block, discourses. 50 shops of eatables, toys	Bhandaria, 6 miles Bus	All communities	Worship of Balamsha Pir. Dargah of Shaikh Abu Mohammed Jikaria of Multan, subsequently known as Balam sha Pir for his devotion to Islam and miracles. Organised by trustees. B. D. O. looks after sanitation Attended by people from the district.
8	Nag Panchami	Tansa	Shravan Vad 5	1,000-1,500	Preachings, bhajans, 15 stalls of toys, milk, coconuts, sugar	Railway Station, Bus	Brahmin, Garasia, Suthar, Darji, Kharak, Koli, Ghanchi, few non-Hindus	Worship of Charmaliya Nagdev (Serpent God). Organised by the pujari. Attended by people from the neighbouring villages

STATEMENT VI 16—*contd.*

Sl. No. 1	Name / occasion 2	Place where held 3	Date of fair 4	Estimated congregation 5	Activities 6	(i) Nearest Railway station (ii) Bus service 7	Castes/ Communities participating 8	Remarks 9
	VALLABHIPUR MAHAL							
9	Bhadarvi Amas	Vallabhipur	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	6,000-7,000	Bhajans, ras, folk-songs, sports. 30 stalls of sweets, toys, cutlery, tea, vegetables, pan-bidi, at times cattle show, agricultural exhibition by B. D. O.	Dhola, 11 miles Bus	All communities	Worship of Siddheshwar Mahadev. Attended by people from neighbouring 10-15 villages
10	Bhadarvi Amas	Italiya	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	4,000	Ras, garba, competition, bhajan mandlis, cattle show and agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. at times, 20 stalls of eatables	Dhola Junction, 22 miles Bus	Brahmin, Charan, Kanbi, Koli, Harijan	Worship of Shiva. Organised by the Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages
11	Bhadarvi	Panvi	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	[illegible],000	Ras, bhajan mandlis, religious preachings, agricultural exhibition and cattle show by B. D. O. at times, 15 stalls of eatables	Bhimnath, 16 miles Bus	Hindus	Worship of Pavadia Mahadev. Organised by the trustees of the temple. Attended by people from surrounding 7 villages
12	Bhadarvi Amas	Patna	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	2,000-2,500	Ras, bhajans, etc. 30 stalls of sweets, toys, cutlery	Bhimnath, 18 miles Bus	Kanbi, Rajput, Koli, few non-Hindus	Worship of Pavakeshwar Mahadev. Organised by the Panchayat. Attended by people from the surrounding villages

13	Khodiyar Mandir fair	Pachhegam	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	1,000-1,500	Bhajans, garbi. 20 stalls of sweets, toys, vegetables, cutlery	Dhola, 14 miles Bus	All communities	
14	Janmashtami	Pachhegam	Shravan Vad 8	500	Ras, bhajans, 15 stalls	Dhola, 14 miles Bus	All communities	At Bhutnath Mahadev temple
	BOTAD TALUKA							
15	Kanakhia fair	Paliyad	Bhadrapad Sud 2	10,000-15,000	Ras competition, films shows, agricultural and health exhibition by B. D. O. 100 shops of eatables, toys, fruits, household articles	Railway Station, Bus	Kanbi, Koli, Vaghri, Sathvara, Bharwad, Harijan	In memory of the samadhi of Jiva Bhagat of Songadh. Organised by the trustees of the temple. Attended by people from Botad, Jasdan, Gadhada talukas
16	Hanuman Jayanti	Botad	Chaitra Sud 15	2,000	Ras, camp-fire, musical programme, religious discourses. 50 stalls of eatables, fruits, toys, clothes	Railway Station, Bus	All communities	Temple of Navhatha Hanuman. Limited to taluka. Organised by the pujari
	GADHADA MAHAL							
17	Jal-jhilani Agiaras	Gadhada	Bhadrapad Sud 11	25,000	Religious preachings 20 shops of sweets, fruits, toys, pan-bidi, photographers	Railway Station, Bus	Hindus, mostly of Swaminarayan sect. Also Khojas	Held since the establishment of Swaminarayan sect. Gadhada has one of the most important temples of the sect
	PALITANA TALUKA							
18	Bhadarvi Amas	Virpur	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	7,000-8,000	Ras, garbas, sports, competition, agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. at times. Merry-go-round. 15-17 stalls of toys, eatables	Pailtana 15 miles	All communities	Worship of Virpur Mahadev. Attended by people from the surrounding villages. Police bandobast.

STATEMENT VI·16—contd.

Sl. No	Name/occasion	Place where held	Date of fair	Estimated congregation	Activities	(i) Nearest Railway station (ii) Bus service	Castes/communities participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	PALITANA TALUKA—contd.							
19	Janmashtami	Palitana	Shravan Vad 8	5,000-6,000	Ras, garbas. 15-20 stalls of toys, eatables	Railway Station, Bus	All communities	Attended by people from surrounding villages. Police bandobast
	SIHOR TALUKA							
20	Bhadarvi Amas	Sihor	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	6,000	Ras. garbas. 50 stalls of sweets, toys, eatables, cutlery	Railway Station, Bus	All communities	Brahamkund is an ancient kund considered holy. Organised by the local leaders. Attended by people from surrounding 25 villages
21	Bhadarvi Amas	Sandhida	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	3,000-4,000	Ras. garbas and sports competition. Exhibition with stalls pertaining to livestock, agriculture, cottage industries, social education. 20-30 stalls of eatables, toys	Sanosra, 5 miles	All communities	Worship of Sandhida Mahadev after taking bath in the river near the temple. Organised by the pujari and B. D. O. Sihor. Attended by people from surrounding 15-20 villages
22	Triveni fair	Sarkadia	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	3,000	Religious preachings by pujari, ras, garbas, bhajans. 45 stalls of eatables	Sanosra, 10 miles Bus	All communities	Bahucharaji and Balau Mata appeared near the confluence of 3 rivers 100 years ago and hence the sacredness of the place. Organised by the pujari and local leaders. Attended by people from the surrounding 10 villages

23	Janmashtami	Sihor	Shravan Vad 8	2,000	Garbas, ras, bhajans, hawkers of toys, eatables	Railway station, Bus	Hindus	Near Gautameshwar Mahadev. Limited to the town
24	Divaso	Sihor	Ashadh Vad 15 (Amas)	1,500	Garbas, ras, hawkers of eatables, toys	Railway station, Bus	Hindu (women only)	Near Sukhnath Mahadev. A fair of women. Limited to the town
	UMRALA MAHAL							
25	Bhadarvi Amas	Umrala	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	5,000	Ras, garbas, agricultural exhibition. 20-25 stalls of fruits, eatables. toys	Dhola, 5 miles Bus	All communities	Held since the installation of Dholnath Mahadev on the opposite Bank of river Kalubhar 50 year ago. Organised by the trustees of the Dholnath Mahadev. Attended by people from surrounding 15 villages
26	Janmashtami	Dholagam	Shravan Vad 8	5,000	Ras, garbas. 15 stalls of eatables, toys	Railway station, Bus	All communities	At Dhana Bhagat's shrine in his memory. Started three years ago. Organised by the leaders of the place. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages
27	Bhadarvi Amas	Chogath	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	5,000	Ras, duhas, bhajans, sports competition, cycle race, horse race, programme of musical records by Panchayat. Agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. Stalls of sweets, toys. fruits, cutlery	Dhola, 5 miles Bus	Brahmin, Bania, Kanbi, Rajput Koli, Harijan, etc. A few non-Hindus including Khojas	Organised by Panchayat and B. D. O. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages. Sanitary arrangements made by panchayat

STATEMENT VI·16—*contd.*

Sl. No. 1	Name/occasion 2	Place where held 3	Date of fair 4	Estimated congregation 5	Activities 6	(i) Nearest Railway station (ii) Bus service 7	Castes/communities participating 8	Remarks 9
	UMRALA MAHAL—*contd.*							
28	Bhadarvi Amas	Langala	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	2,000	Ras, garbas, sports, 10 stalls of eatables, toys	Dhola, 3 miles	All communities	Since the installation of Nilkanth Mahadev at the confluence of rivers Rangholi and Gadhuli 35 years back. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages
29	Janmashtami	Samadhiala	Shravan Vad 8	500-1,000	Ras and sports competition. Horse and cart race. Agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. 10-15 stalls of eatables, toys	Dhola, 5 miles Bus	All communities	Attended by people from neighbouring villages
	GARIADHAR MAHAL							
30	Janmashtami	Gariadhar	Shravan Vad 8	1,500	Garba, rasadas, bhajans, religious discourses on Krishnajanma	Palitana, 17 miles Bus	Hindus	At Bhagat's place. Organised by the pujari. Attended by people from neighbouring villages
31	Janmashtami	Manpur	Shravan Vad 6	1,000-1,500	Bhajans, ras, garba, religious preachings. 20-25 stalls of eatables, tea, toys, cutlery	Damnagar, 10 miles Bus	All communities non-Hindus for recreation	At Mahadev temple near a kund called Ganga-Deri where river Ganges had sprung up according to popular legend. Organised by the pujari. Attended by people from surrounding 15-20 villages

	KUNDLA TALUKA							
32	Janmashtami	Ambardi	Shravan Vad 8	500-1,000	Ras, bhajans, dhun, religious preachings	Badhada, 7 miles Bus	Bharwad and others including Muslims	At Kalia Thakor temple of Bharwad community. Organised by the pujari. Attended by people from Kundla, Rajula and Amreli talukas
33	Navratri	Thordi	Ashvin Sud 1-10	500	Ras, bhajans, garbas and drama	Vijapdi, 7 miles Bus	Hindus and few Muslims	Organised by the Yuvak Mandal. Held for last 6 years. Limited to the village
34	Navratri	Ambardi	Ashvin Sud 1-10	200	Ras, garbas, bhavai	Badhada, 7 miles Bus	Hindus and few Muslims	Organised by the Yuvak Mandal. Held for the last 6 years. Limited to the village
	MAHUVA TALUKA							
35	Pingleshwer fair Mahashivratri	Khared	Magh Vad 14	4,000-5,000	Ras, bhajan mandli, merry-go-round. Agricultural exhibition by B D. O. 25-50 stalls of eatables, toys	Mahuva, 4 miles Bus	Hindus and few Muslims	Worship of Pingleshwer Mahadev installed by a person called Pingal. The shrine is in the sea and can be approached during the ebb. Organised by the Manager of the temple. Attended by people from Gadhada, Dudhari, Dolia, Gajarda, Madhia, Padhiarka, Devaliya Vangar, etc., villages
36	Pingleshwer fair Bhadarvi Amas	Khared	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	4,000-5,000	Ras, bhajan mandli, merry-go-round. Agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. 25-50 stalls of eat-tables, toys	Mahuva, 4 miles Bus	Hindus and few Muslims	Organised by the Manager of the temple. Attended by people from Gadhada, Dudhari, Dolia, Gajarda, Madhia, Padhiarka Devaliya, Vangari village.

STATEMENT VI·16—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name / occasion	Place where held	Date of fair	Estimated congregation	Activities	(i) Nearest Railway station (ii) Bus Service	Castes/ communities participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	MAHUVA TALUKA—*contd.*							
37	Janmashtami	Vadli	Shravan Vad 8	3,000-4,000	Ras, bhajan mandlis, folk-songs, merry-go-round. Agricultural exhibition. 30-40 stalls of eatables, toys, bangles, pictures	Mahuva, 2 miles Bus	Hindus, a few Muslims	At Bhutnath Mahadev temple. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding villages
38	Janmashtami	Kalsar	Shravan Vad 8 (Amas)	2,000-3,000	Ras mandlis, sports competition. Agricultural exhibition by B. D. O./Panchayat. 20-25 stalls of eatables, toys	Datha, 6 miles Bus	All communities	At Batheshwer Mahadev temple. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages
39	Bhadarvi Amas	Katpar	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	2,000-3,000	Ras, garba and bhajan mandlis. Agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. Merry-go-round. 20-25 stalls of eatables	Mahuva, 2 miles	All communities	The fair is held near Bhavani Mata's temple on the seashore from where it is said that Shri Krishna had taken away Rukmini. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding 6-8 villages

40	Bara Pujan fair	Katpar	Shravan Vad 1	2,000-2,500	Ras, garbas, bhajans, recreational programmes, religious preachings. Agricultural exhibition by B.D.O. Stalls of eatables, toys, etc.	Mahuva, 2 miles	Brahmin, Bania, Koli, Kumbhar, Kharwa, a few local non-Hindus	Held near Bhavani Mata temple on the seashore. Worship of the sea at the bara (harbour) after which the sailing season opens. Attended by people from Mahuva, Vaghbhar, Bhadrod, Vadli, etc., villages. Vaccination arrangements are made by the Public Health Department if necessary. Police bandobast
41	Shitla Saptami	Mahuva	Shravan Sud 7	2,000-2,500	Merry-go-round, a few stalls of eatables, toys	Railway Station, Bus	Hindus only	Worship of Shitla Mata on the river Malan. Limited to Mahuva
42	Bhadarvi Amas	Goras	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	1,500-2,000	Ras mandlis, garbas. 15-20 stalls of eatables, toys	Mahuva 8 miles Bus	All communities, very few Muslims	Worship of Shiva at the confluence of three rivers. Footprints of Krishna's horse are found here. Attended by people from the surrounding 10-12 villages
43	Bhadarvi Amas	Bagdana	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	1,500	25 stalls of eatables, toys	Longdi, 7 miles Bus	Hindus, a few Muslims	Worship of Bagdeshwer Mahadev on the river Bagad. Organised by Gram Panchayat which levies shop tax. Attended by people from surrounding 10-12 villages
44	Shravani fair	Mahuva	Shravan Sud 15	1,000-2,000	Merry-go-round. A few stalls of eatables, toys	Railway Station, Bus	Mostly Hindus	Limited to Mahuva

STATEMENT VI·16—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name/occasion	Place where held	Date of fair	Estimated congregation	Activities	(i) Nearest Railway station (ii) Bus service	Castes/communities participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	TALAJA TALUKA							
45	Gopnath Mahadev fair, Bhadarvi Amas	Gadhula	Shravan Vad 14, 15 (Amas)	6,000	Ras, bhavai, music and film shows. Various competitions and agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. 75 stalls of toys, sweets, tea, pan-bidi	Gopnath Road, 5 miles Bus	Brahmin, Garasia, Sadhus, Kanbi, Koli, a few non-Hindus	Worship of Gopnath Mahadev said to have been first installed by Gopis and worshipped by Krishna and associated with legends. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding villages
46	Janmashtami	Shobhavad	Shravan Vad 8	5,000	Ras, garbas, Discourses on development activities, agricultural and health exhibition by B. D. O. 25-30 hawkers of toys, clothes	Talaja, 1½ miles Bus	Hindus	Sanitary arrangements made by the health centre. Attended by people from surrounding 8-10 villages
47	Janmashtami	Gadhula	Shravan Vad 8	3,000-5,000	Dramas, ras, camp-fire. Agricultural, social, educational and sanitary exhibition by B. D. O. Stalls of toys, etc	Gopnath Road, 5 miles Bus	All communities	At Gopnath Mahadev temple on the seashore. Organised by B. D. O. Attended by people from surrounding 8-10 villages

48	Randal Mata fair	Amala	Every Sunday of Magh	3,000	Agricultural exhibition by B. D. O. 80 stalls of pan-bidi, sweets, fruits, toys	Gopnath Road 2½ miles Bus	Brahmin, Bania, Rajput, Koli, Kanbi, Kharak, Ayer, and a few non-Hindus	Worship of Randal Mata whose temple has been built by Bajirajaba the mother of the Maharaja Bhavsinhji of Bhavnagar who had deep faith in the Goddess. Organised by the pujari. Attended by people from the surrounding villages
49	Bhadarvi Amas	Alang	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	3,000	Ras, garbas, bhajans, folk-songs, duhas, sports 25 stalls of sweets, toys, eatables	Trapaj, 6 miles Bus	Brahmin, Garasia, Koli, Kharak, Kumbhar, few non-Hindus for trade	Worship of Shivalings installed by Parshuram. Organised by the pujari and local leaders. Sanitary arrangements by the Public Health Department. Attended by people from the surrounding 4-5 villages
50	Bhadarvi Amas	Padri (Gohil)	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	3,000	Dandia ras, garbas, 30 stalls of sweets, toys	Velavadar, 6 miles	Garasia, Koli, Ubhad, Bavas, a few non-Hindus	Temple of Siddhanath Mahadev. Organised by the trustees of the Siddhanath Mahadev. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages
51	Bhadarvi Amas	Fulsar	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	1,125	Ras and garba competitions, bhajans, religious preachings	Gopnath Road, 2 miles Bus	Garasia, Kanbi, Koli, Pancholi, Mochi, Luhar, Harijan	Temple of Bhidbhanjan Mahadev. Limited to three neighbouring villages-Fulsar, Vavdi, Shelavadar

STATEMENT VI.16—*concld.*

Sl. No.	Name/occasion	Place where held	Date of fare	Estimated congregation	Activities	Nearest Railway station/Bus Service	Castes/communities participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	TALAJA TALUKA—*contd.*							
52	Chaitri fair	Mithivirdi	Chaitra Sud 15	1,000	Ras, garbas, film shows Agricultural and health exhibition by B. D. O.	Dihor, 14 miles	Brahmin, Garasia, Koli Kanbi, Kharak and a few Muslims	There are pools of sweet water in the bed of the sea and hence the place is known as Mithivirdi. There is a local legand that Pandavas dwelt here and Bhimsen married Hidamba here. Organised by Panchayat and pujari. Attended by people from surrounding villages
53	Bhadarvi Amas	Timana	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	1,000	Ras, garbas, 10-12 stalls of eatables	Talaja, 8 miles	Only Hindus	Attended by people from surrounding 5 miles area
54	Bhadarvi Amas	Dantrad	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	700	Ras, garbas Hawkers of sweets, fruits, earthen toys	Talaja, 6 miles	Brahmin, Rajput, Koli Kanbi	Temple of Mahadev on the bank of Shetrunji river. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding 4-5 villages. Fair started since the temple was built
55	Bhadarvi Amas	Bordi	Shravan Vad 15 (Amas)	500-600	Ras, garbas. 7-8 stalls of eatables toys tea	Datha Road, 6 miles	Garasia Koli, Abir, Khoja	Worship of Mahadev. There is an old step-well with good architecture at this beautiful spot on the river. Attended by people from 6-7 surronding villages

56	Janmashtami	Sonsia	Shravan Vad 8	500	Ras, garbas. 3-5 stalls of eatables, toys	Trapaj 6 mies	Koli, Kanbi, Kharak, and a few non-Hindus	At Makhania Mahadev temple. The Shivalinga is prepared from half a maund of butter offered by one devotee. Organised by the pujari in co-operation with public leaders. Attended by people from surrounding 5-6 villages
57	Janmashtami	Sathara	Shravan Vad 8	400-500	Ras, garbas, bhajans Horse race. 4-5 stalls of sweets and toys, etc.	Trapaj, 3 miles	Garasia, Koli, Ubhad, Kanbi, etc	Organised by the pujari of the place. Attended by people from neighbouring 2 villages

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, (Part II Tables) pp. 22–28

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

OLD TIME TRADE ROUTES

Trade in former days was both inter-provincial as well as foreign. Much of the early trade was sea-borne, whereas the inland trade was carried by means of laden bullocks and hired labourers. Earlier references to maritime activities are found in the Buddhist work *Manju-Sri-Mula-Kalpa* which says, " people of Valabhi reached *Sura* by crossing the sea which probably refers to their trade ventures to, and regular commerce with, Assyria." This information is further corroborated by Dandin who, in his *Dasakumarcharita*, says, " there lived in the city of Valabhi a ship's captain (*Navikapati*), who seems to have been as rich as the god of wealth himself." That inland and foreign trade largely contributed to the prosperity of this region is further evident from the fact recorded by McCrindle, who while referring to the foreign trade of Valabhi mentions China silk as one of the items of the export trade of Barygazes (Broach) with Rome.[1]

Gogha was an important port during the Hindu period in Gujarat, when the seat of administration was Anhilwad Patan. The roadstead to Gogha and Gohilwad was the best in the Gulf of Cambay. Gogha road was safe for sailing boats. Its wide stretch of anchoring ground, with mud and clay bottom, was considered suitable by the seamen. Gogha became an important port particularly when the neighbouring creek of Gundi, which hitherto was appropriating the trade, gradually got silted up.

When the capital of the Gujarat kingdom was shifted to Ahmedabad by Sultan Ahmed Shah in 1411, Gogha was closely associated with the growing splendour of the Ahmedabad court. Here, the larger vessels anchored in deeper waters and discharged their cargoes into smaller crafts for transmission to Cambay from whence they were carried to Ahmedabad. During these days, the focus of commercial prosperity was transferred from the banks of the Saraswati (Anhilwad Patan) to the banks of the Sabarmati (Ahmedabad) but Gogha retained its place as one of the busiest ports on the Gulf. Later on, the collision with the European traders gave the first shock to this trade from which it never recovered, as the Portuguese, gaining control of Diu in 1538, made the Gulf of Cambay unsafe for Indian trade. In vain the merchants tried to avoid the Portuguese by keeping to the open sea and going *via* the Maldives and south of Ceylon to Malacca and the Far East. Their rich cargoes were captured at every point and finally the Portuguese gained a foothold in Gogha itself and captured the spice trade.

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1. Dr. VIRJI K. J., *Ancient History of Saurashtra*, 1955, pp. 221-222

The strong hand of Akbar brought a revival in the trade. But by the 17th century trade began to leave Ahmedabad, Cambay and Gogha. The English and the Dutch were gaining control of the trade of Surat, which the Mughals themselves favoured as a port of embarkment for the pilgrims going to Mecca. The trade of Ahmedabad, Cambay and Gogha steadily declined. Trade routes were clogged with transit duty stations and each chief and ruler imposed duties. When the British gained control of Ahmedabad in 1817, they tried to establish a port at Dholera and to maintain direct connections between it and Surat for the procurement of cotton and wheat from Saurashtra and Gogha fell into disuse.

Made-up roads or railway routes did not exist in the district up to the middle of the last century. During the rainy season when the ports were closed and the rivers flooded, outside dealings were at a standstill and all movement of the traffic came to a stop. It was no uncommon sight to see a train of laden carts halted at the bank of a river, and cattle of three or four carts formed into a team to drag one across: or when the cart was by itself taken across empty, and filled on the opposite bank, the load being carried over bit by bit on men's head. The chief trade route in the province of Kathiawar (as the peninsular Gujarat was then known) followed the coast from Gogha south-west to Somnath and thence north-west to Dwarka. The chief land routes were those joining the peninsula with the mainland. Of these the most frequented one passed by Jhinjhuvada and Patdi to Wadhwan and by Viramgam to Wadhwan. The routes by Dholka and Dhandhuka to Wadhwan and Vallabhipur (Vala) were also in common use. There seems to have been a road joining Vallabhipur, a seaport during the time of the Valabhi dynasty, with Junagadh and Vanthali. But as most of this road then passed through forest and thinly peopled country, the trade route followed the coast-line.

RAIL ROUTES

Bhavnagar State started survey for the construction of a railway through Bhavnagar territory about the year 1877 and the first railway line started operating in the district in 1880. Before that the chief road from Ahmedabad to Bhavnagar was by Dholka, Koth, Hadala, Dhandhuka, Barwala and Sihor. The following roads of 136 miles (218.87 km.) were constructed after the introduction of railway lines in the district. Mahuva to Kundla (35 miles); Mahuva to Bhadrod (3 miles); Bhavnagar to Chavnad (52 miles); Bhavnagar to Bhandaria (13 miles); Bhavnagar to Sidsar (3 miles); Bhavnagar to Gogha (9 miles); Songadh to Palitana (13 miles); and Pipla to Nonghanvadar (8 miles).

ROAD TRANSPORT

Though road building was considered an administrative necessity as well as a public convenience, the necessity of constructing hard surfaced roads on

scientific lines was not realised till the last quarter of the 19th century. Even then, prior to Independence, road building did not receive the importance it deserved, because the rulers of princely States did not want that the road system should compete with the railways owned by them either in the matter of passenger service or in the matter of goods traffic. Moreover the inter-state jealousy and competition did'not permit of a cohesive or co-ordinated plan of communications. As a result, at the time of integration important taluka and mahal headquarters were not connected with each other and with the district headquarters and the capital city of Bhavnagar through proper road system. Bhavnagar district had no direct road connection with the adjoining districts of Junagadh and Surendranagar. The condition of village roads and approaches was also far from satisfactory. The district had only 19 miles of road per 100 sq. miles of area in 1951.

After integration and with the commencement of successive Five Year Plans, systematic efforts were made to develop a chain of roads connecting all the taluka/mahal headquarters with one another and also with the district headquarters. Road connections between Bhavnagar and Junagadh and Bhavnagar and Surendranagar were established for the first time. New roads were constructed at a number of places. In the result, the road mileage per 100 sq. miles of area increased to 27.9 miles by the end of the First Plan and to 28·8 miles by the end of the Second Plan, when Bhavnagar district had 1,057 miles of roads. Even then it fell short of the Nagpur Plan target by about 30 per cent. That Plan envisaged that the district should have 1,496 miles (2,407·57 km.) of roads by 1961, which could not be achieved even in 1965 when the district had only 1,106 miles (1,780 km.) of roads.

Classification of Roads

According to the standard classification, roads are classified according to their importance into five categories, namely, (1) National Highways, (2) State Highways, (3) Major District Roads, (4) Other District Roads and (5) Village Roads.

Road mileage in the district by category is as follows.

	Type of Roads	Road length (in km, as on 31st March 1965)
1	National Highways	..
2	State Highways	373.57
3	Major District Roads	296.72
4	Other District Roads	609.03
5	Village Roads	501.31
	Total	1,780.63

Source :

Executive Engineer (R. & B. Division), Bhavnagar

National Highways

No National Highway passes through this district.

State Highways

The State Highways passing through this district are: (1) Rajkot-Bhavnagar, (2) Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva, (3) Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad, and (4) Vallabhipur-Umrala-Dhola-Ranghola.

Rajkot-Bhavnagar State Highway—This road starts from Rajkot and after passing through the Babra taluka of Amreli district, it enters the jurisdiction of Bhavnagar district near village Rasnal of Gadhada mahal. Thus out of its total road length of 172 km. a portion of 73 km. passes through this district touching on its way Dhasa, Mandva, Limbda, Sanosara, Ambla, Amargadh, Songadh, Sihor, Vartej and Bhavnagar. The major bridges it crosses are on the rivers Gadhuli (122 km.), Sindri (127 km.), Bhuvneshri (133.78 km.), Rameshri (134 km.), Sonapari (142 km.), Gangeshri (145 km.) and Maleshri (160 km.).

The entire length of the road has a cement concrete surface and is fully bridged. It has proved a useful traffic link to and from the districts of Rajkot Amreli and Bhavnagar.

Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva Road—The road forms a part of the Bhavnagar-Veraval-Okha State Highway and provides an important road link joining Bhavnagar with the districts of Amreli, Junagadh and Jamnagar. From Bhavnagar it runs parallel to Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva narrow gauge railway line up to Mahuva when it leaves the jurisdiction of this district to enter Amreli district on its way to Junagadh district and then to the district of Jamnagar. Covering a distance of 98 km. in this district it crosses the river Shetrunji by road-*cum*-railway bridge near Talaja. The entire length of this road has a tar surface.

Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad Road—This State Highway bifurcates from the Bhavnagar-Rajkot State Highway near Vartej, about 11 km. from Bhavnagar. From there the road from Bhavnagar emerges into two State Highways, one going to Rajkot and the other going to Ahmedabad. The Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad Road running over 62 km. in this district goes north-west from Vartej up to Vallabhipur from where it runs north-ward till Panvi when it leaves the jurisdiction of this district and enters Ahmedabad district. The road on its way crosses the bridges over the rivers Khari (24 km.), Rangholi (25 km.), Kalubhar (28 km.) and Ghelo (38 km.). It has a tar surface and is motorable throughout the year.

Vallabhipur-Umrala-Dhola-Ranghola Road—The road bifurcates from Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad State Highway near Vallabhipur and terminates near Ranghola where it meets Rajkot-Bhavnagar State Highway. It passes

through Rampar, Umrala, Timbi and Dhola. Its entire length of 31 km. has a tar surface. It is an all-weather road.

In addition to the above mentioned State Highways, Chhaida-Paliyad-Botad-Gadhada-Dhasa (70 km.) section of Sayala-Botad-Gadhada-Dhasa State Highway and Bodi-Vinchhia (28 km.) section of Ahmedabad-Dhandhuka-Gondal-Porbandar State Highway passes through this district taking the total length of State Highways in this district to 373.57 km.

Major District Roads

Gogha-Vartej Road—The road starts from Gogha (mahal headquarters) and reaches Vartej where it meets Rajkot-Bhavnagar State Highway. It passes through Bhuteshwar, Budhel, Sidsar and Fulsar and meets the Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva State Highway near Budhel. The total length of the road is 25·75 km. a major portion of which has a tar surface. The road is partly bridged and negotiable only during fair weather.

Mahuva-Kundla Road—The road starts from Mahuva and runs in north-west direction till it reaches its termination. On its way the road crosses Jesar-Asrana Road at Asrana and Badhada-Thordi Road at Badhada. The entire length of 59·55 km. of this road has water bound macadam surface.

Mahuva-Victor Road—The road joins this district with Amreli. It starts from Mahuva, runs in south-west direction and terminates at Port Victor of Amreli district. This murrum-surfaced road has a total length of 16 km. in this district. It is a fair weather road and does not meet or cross any important road on its way.

Talaja-Palitana Road—Covering a distance of 32 km. the road starts from Talaja and terminates at Palitana. It crosses the important river Shetrunji (22 km.), and Thalia-Ralgon-Otha Road near village Kundheli. A major portion of this road has a tar surface.

Palitana-Gariadhar Road—The road starts from Palitana and reaches Gariadhar covering a total distance of about 33 km. The road between Gariadhar and Paravadi is common to this road and to the Gariadhar-Dhola other District Road. It passes through Malia, Panch-Pipla, Chomal and Paravadi (22 km.) where it joins Dhola-Gariadhar Road. The entire length of the road has water bound macadam surface and is motorable in fair-weather only.

Songadh-Palitana Road—The road bifurcates from Rajkot-Bhavnagar State Highway near Songadh and passes through the territories of Sihor and Palitana talukas, crossing on its way the Nonghanvadar-Piparla other District Road at Piparla. This tar road has a total length of 22·53 km. and is motorable throughout the year.

Gariadhar-Jesar-Dungar-Victor Road—The road provides a link between Bhavnagar and Amreli districts passing through the territories of Gariadhar, Kundla and Mahuva talukas before terminating at Victor in Amreli district. It has a total length of 60.35 km. of which a portion of 17 km. between Shelna and Jesar forms a part of the Kundla-Vanda-Jesar Road.

Besides these the other Major District Roads include : Talaja-Sartanpur Road (10 km.), Kundla-Vanda-Jesar Road (40 km.), Kundla-Chalala-Bagasara Road (8 km.), Kundla-Amreli Road (13 km.), Mahuva Port Road (6 km.), Palitana-Chok Road (16 km.), Sihor-Ganghali Road (6 km.), Kundla-Italiya-Dhasa Road (3.42 km.), Vallabhipur-Botad Road (3.22 km.) and Bhavnagar Air Port Road from Ruvapari Road crossing to Airport (3.22 km.).

Other District Roads and Village Roads as on 31st March, 1965 are given at the end of the Chapter as Appendix I and II.

Municipal Roads

In addition to the different categories of roads discussed above there are what are known as municipal roads in the municipal towns of Bhavnagar district. These roads built and maintained by the respective municipalities are listed in the following statement.

STATEMENT VII-1

Municipal Roads, 1962

Sl. No.	Name of the municipality	Metalled roads (km.)	Unmetalled roads (km.)	Total (km)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bhavnagar — — —	83-69	103-00	180-08
2	Sihor — — —	12-87	4-83	17-70
3	Savarkundla — — —	6 03	10-46	16 49
4	Mahuva — — —	31-78	11-67	43-45
5	Talaja — ... —	0-40	9-66	10 00
6	Gadhada — .. —	1-11	0-70	1-81
7	Gariadhar — .. —	4-83	1-61	6-44
8	Paliyad — .. —	0-00	6-03	6-03
9	Palitana — .. —	19 31	28-97	48-28
10	Vallabhipur — .. —	2-01	6-03	8-04
11	Botad — .. —	9 25	37-01	46-26
12	Umrala — ... —	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
	Total	171-28	219-97	391-25

N. A = Not available

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCES

The importance of bullock carts in the district is not the same as it was a century ago; yet its usefulness cannot be overlooked even now. Though its use as the only mode of transport has been diminished owing to the extension of railways and expansion of bus traffic which now passes through the remotest corner of the district, the bullock cart still retains much of its former importance and usefulness in the village economy which is primarily agricultural. According to the Livestock Census conducted in 1961 there were 40,323 bullock carts in the district, the highest in Kundla and the lowest in Umrala. The following statement gives figures of bullock carts by taluka/mahal.

STATEMENT VII·2

Bullock Carts, 1961

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	No. of bullock-carts	Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	No. of bullock carts
1	Bhavnagar	2,366	7	Sihor	2,743
2	Gogha	1,981	8	Umrala	1,796
3	Botad	3,274	9	Gariadhar	3,127
4	Gadhada	3,602	10	Kundla	6,193
5	Vallabhipur	2,185	11	Mahuva	6,083
6	Palitana	2,731	12	Talaja	4,242
				Total	**40,323**

The other vehicles in use in the district are motor-cars, lorries, taxis, horse-drawn carriages, etc. Unlike some other districts of Gujarat the auto-rickshaw has not made its entry to any considerable extent in the district and affected the horse-drawn carriages. The number of bicycles is of course increasing rapidly as in other districts.

STATEMENT VII·3

Vehicles Registered with the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Bhavnagar in the year, 1964-65

Sl. No.	Name of the vehicles	Number of vehicles
1	Motor cycles	474
2	Motor-cars	1,101
3	Taxi-cars	73
4	Government vehicles	73
5	Lorries	
	(a) private carriers	76
	(b) public carriers	802
6	Ambulances	9
7	School buses	3
8	Private service vehicles	4
9	Auto-rickshaws	5
10	Trailers	147
11	Tractors	215
	Total	**2,982**

Source :

Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Bhavnagar

STATE TRANSPORT

Road communications prior to the integration of Kathiawar States in Saurarshtra did not present a co-ordinated picture owing to the rivalry of railway system owned and operated by them. The States which had invested large amounts of capital in the construction of railways regarded roads as a rival transport system which would affect their railway revenue and so the development of roads was generally neglected. This factor together with the conflicting interests of different States came in the way of the development of a co-ordinated and well-knit system of road transport in the peninsula.

Road transport managed by private bodies on contract or auction basis made for huge profits to the operators and hindered the construction of new roads, maintenance of old ones, introduction of new buses and provisions of amenities to passengers. No uniform rules were enacted for the passing of public vehicles. Uneconomic competition, overcrowding, disregard of rules for the safety of passengers and absence of healthy employer-employee relation were also some of the drawbacks of the system. To free the transport system from these evils and to bring it in line with the one existing in Bombay State, an Act similar to the Motor Vehicles Act and rules, similar to the Bombay Motor Rules, were passed by the Saurashtra Government leading to the creation of a Regional Office with headquarters at Rajkot. Nationalisation of road transport in Saurashtra started in 1950. This was greatly facilitated as the licences of private operators were due to expire in 1952. The Government of Saurashtra, however, decided to pursue a cautious policy with regard to the problem of nationalisation. In 1956 a statutory autonomous body with headquarters at Rajkot and known as the Saurashtra State Road Transport Corporation was set-up and the transport system of the whole region of Saurashtra was put in its charge. It retained its separate identity even after the integration of Saurashtra State in the bigger bilingual State of Bombay. After its bifurcation and with the formation of the State of Gujarat, the Saurashtra State Road Transport Corporation and Kutch State Road Transport Corporation were dissolved and a Corporation for the whole State of Gujarat known as Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation was set-up in May, 1960. The Corporation has created three divisions in Saurashtra one each at Rajkot, Junagadh and Bhavnagar.

The programme of nationalisation was accelerated in the years 1956-57 and 1957-58. A major portion of road transport was nationalised by 1964 when only 8 private bus services[1] were plying over some short-distance routes. The State transport had in 1964 a net-work of 116 bus routes covering a major part of villages in this district.

1. These were : (1) Laxmi Transport Co., Palitana, (2) Mahuva-Kundla Bus Transport Co., Mahuva, (3) Bhati Brothers Bus Transport Co., Songadh, (4) Bus Transport Co , Palitana, (5) R. Jaiswal Transport Co., Bhavnagar, (6) Balubhai and Sons, Vallabhipur, (7) Vallabhipur Motor Service, Vallabhipur and (8) Manumal Transport Co., Mahuva.

BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

The division at Bhavnagar started in 1964 is under the charge of a Divisional Controller. The routes are fixed by the State Transport Authority and the frequency of trips and the number of vehicles on the routes are adjusted from time to time according to traffic needs. These routes are so planned that all the important trade centres are linked with each other. Some of the routes which operate during fair weather are altered or suspended during the rainy season and the monsoon time table comes into force. The division had, on 31st December, 1965, 180 transport buses which plied over 208 routes covering a total length of 13,668 km. It served a total number of 5,783,352 passengers during the year 1964-65.[1]

In Bhavnagar district depots have been established at Bhavnagar, Gariadhar and Savarkundla.

Labour Unions—At the time of the merger of Saurashtra in the ex-Bombay State, there were two labour unions, viz., (1) State Transport Employees Union and (2) Transport Kamdar Sangh. These are now amalgamated into one named as State Transport Workers' Union. This union is affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress and recognised by the Corporation.

Routes and Operations—The Bhavnagar division of the State transor with 208 different routes and covering a distance of 13,668 km. serves a large number of villages for many of which the State Transport bus is the only mode of conveyance. According to the survey conducted in 1963 by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics, only 197 villages (22 per cent of the total) in this district had a railway station within a distance of three miles. The rest of the villages (78 per cent) had either to travel more than three miles to get the railway facility or to depend upon some other mode of conveyance. The State road transport buses have provided transport facilities to a large number of villages which were otherwise cut off in the past. According to this survey, 387 villages out of a total of 887 villages in the district had a local bus stand and the distance of the nearest bus stand in case of those villages which had no local bus stand was less than one mile in case of 122 villages, 1 to 2 miles in case of 130 villages, 2 to 3 miles in case of 123, 3 to 5 miles in case of 92 and more than 5 miles in case of only 33 villages in the district.

MUNICIPAL BUS SERVICE

The Bhavnagar Municipality was the first in Saurashtra to start passenger bus service in city areas. The municipal bus service was started in the city in 1948 and was gradually extended. At present the municipality has a total of twenty passenger buses which are operated on nine different routes connecting important areas of the city. The total number of passengers

1. Administration Report of Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation, 1964-65

travelling by these buses was 3,947,186 in 1964 and the total gross earnings during that year was Rs. 383,717.

REST HOUSES

The State Government maintains at different places in the district three types of rest houses, namely, *Atithi Grih*, *Vishram Grih*, and *Aram Grih*. The *Atithi Grih* (formerly known as the circuit house) is a rest house of first category, while *Vishram Grih* (formerly known as guest house) is a rest house of second category and *Aram Grih* (formerly known as rest house) is a rest house of third category. Lodging facilities are provided mainly for government servants touring the district in the course of their duties. Some of these are also open to the public, preference being given to government servants on duty. All types of rest houses are generally furnished with cots, fans, crockery, mattresses, tables, chairs and other articles. Besides tea and breakfast, meals are also provided in the *Atithi Grih* and *Vishram Grih* on payment. *Atithi Grihs* are under the control of the Public Works Department and *Vishram Grih* and *Aram Grih* under the control of the District Panchayat.

The following statement shows the particulars of rest houses in the district :

Atithi Grih	*Vishram Grih*	*Aram Grih*	
1 Bhavnagar	1 Bhavnagar (Maji Raj wadi)	1 Garadhar	9 Umala
	2 Palitana	2 Gadhada	10 Vallabhipur
		3 Palitana	11 Gogha
		4 Ranghola	12 Malan Dam site
		5 Surajwadi	13 Shetrunji Dam site
		6 Songadh	14 Botad
		7 Sihor	15 Mahuva
		8 Talaja	

Dharmashalas and choras in many villages and towns are the old-time rest houses where a traveller can rest for a temporary period. *Dharmashalas* are often attached to temples or built by some philanthropic persons. A *chora* is located in the centre of the village, stands on a raised *otta* and has Ramji Mandir or the shrine of Shri Rama. It is a place where the village people congregate and road side travellers can rest. The *choras* are under the control of the gram panchayats.

RAILWAYS

Historical Background

Construction of railway route in this part of the State, as in other parts of the country, started during the later part of the 19th century. The first railway line constructed in the Saurashtra region was the extension of the Bombay-Baroda and Central India Railway to Wadhwan in 1873. The railway line from Bhavnagar to Limbdi was formally opened on the 18th of December 1880. The railway had two branches, one from Bhavnagar to

Wadhwan, where it joined the B. B. & C. I. line at Wadhwan Civil Station, and another from Dhola, a station on the Bhavnagar-Wadhwan main line, to Dhoraji, a large and important commercial centre in the Gondal State. This railway was constructed with the capital of the Bhavnagar and Gondal States, without any pecuniary assistance from the Government of India. It was a landmark in the economic history of Saurashtra, when its isolation from the rest of India was broken, thanks to the pioneer work in railway construction in Saurashtra initiated by these two Indian States.

The Bhavnagar-Gondal Railway (193 miles) cost nearly Rs. 91.70 lakhs to the States (Bhavnagar Rs. 64.46 lakhs ; Gondal Rs. 27.24 lakhs). Of this railway, Bhavnagar had constructed 120 miles, viz., 105½ miles of main line from Bhavnagar to Wadhwan Station of the B. B. & C. I. Railway, and 14½ miles of branch line from Dhola junction station to Dhasa. Gondal had constructed 73 miles of railway from Dhasa west ward to Dhoraji. The expense per mile in Bhavnagar's share came to about Rs. 53,000, there being large rivers requiring very expensive bridges on the main line. The main line of the Bhavnagar-Gondal Railway was opened on the 18th December 1880, and it began to work from the 20th December 1880, and the branch line from Dhola to Dhoraji was opened for traffic on the 21st January 1881. In the very first year (1881) of its working, the railway earned a net profit of Rs. 175,180 (Receipts Rs. 472,390; Expenditure Rs. 297,210) to the State of Bhavnagar, and paid a handsome interest of 3.35 per cent on the capital expended on it.

The port of Bhavnagar was specially benefited by this railway. Its customs revenues nearly doubled. The prosperity of the city and port of Bhavnagar also began to increase. Large and handsome buildings came up in the vicinity of the city station. Trade increased to such a great extent that Bhavnagar could not show a single instance of former years in which its trade had reached to the pitch to which it did after the introduction of railway. About sixty-four new firms of merchants were started, of which about 50 were opened by merchants residing in places other than Bhavnagar, such as Ahmedabad, Patan, Wadhwan, Limbdi, Jetpur, Dhoraji, Dholera, Gogha, Bombay, Rajkot, etc., besides the agency of a European firm from Bombay.

There was a great diversion of trade which formerly did not come to Bhavnagar. As to the inward traffic, before the introduction of the railway, no cotton was brought from Jhalawad (Surendranagar) and other parts of the peninsula. There was prohibitive duty on cotton of 3½ per cent in former Junagadh and Nawanagar States. Nevertheless the merchants preferred to pay this prohibitive duty and bring cotton by rail to Bhavnagar which became an important centre of trade in cotton and *kapas* which were also railed from such distant places as Nadiad, Petlad, Anand, Borsad, Deesa, Limbdi, Wadhwan and Lakhtar. Cotton from Cambay was brought to Bhavnagar by rail route from the Anand station on the B. B. & C. I.

Railway instead of exporting it direct from that port. Other commodities brought to this city were sugar, *gur*, grain and *ghee* from Delhi, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Jaipur, Banaras, Amritsar and other places, besides costly wearing apparels, gilded vessels, carved toys, jewels and other articles from distant parts of India and vegetables and fruits from Ahmedabad, Surat and Bombay. Outward traffic also developed *pari passu* with the inland.

The trade in timber had, since the opening of the railway, become four times greater than what it formerly was. Timber could be now sent to Dhoraji, Gondal, Junagadh, and to other places in the west, and to Wankaner, Morvi, Dhrangadhra, Wadhwan, Ranpur, Chuda, Sayla, and to other places in the north, and even to such distant places as Viramgam, Mehsana, Bhandup, Palanpur, Deesa and Patan. Grain in large quantity was transhipped to Junagadh, Jamnagar and Surendranagar. Sugar candy manufactured at Bhavnagar and coconuts, dates and spices were moved to all parts of Gujarat, as well as to Pali and other places on the Rajputana Railway. Cotton bales, which, owing to the early monsoon, had to be stored in Bhavnagar, were now sent to Bombay by railway when ships and steamers did not ply. Bhavnagar thus registered an all round expansion in its trade after the introduction of railway lines in the last quarter of the 19th century.

The following years witnessed rapid progress in railway construction carried out in this region by the Bhavnagar State in the early part of the 20th century.

1 Sihor-Palitana (27 km.) in 1908
2 Dha a-Kundla (87 km.) in 1911-12
3 Botad-Jasdan (52.72 km.) in 1913
4 Kundla-Mahuva (88.51 km.) in 1917
5 Botad-Dhandhuka (46.67 km.) in 1922
6 Ningala-Gadhada (15.29 km.) in 1925 and
7 Bhavnagar-Talaja (59 km.) in 1926. (This line was extended up to Mahuva in 1938.)

Besides being a great boon to the development of trade and industry, the railways became an important source of revenue to the State. Its revenue receipts increased from Rs. 5·81 lakhs in 1882 to Rs. 33·03 lakhs in 1922-23 and to nearly Rs. 50 lakhs in 1942-43. The following statement gives decennial growth in railway earnings and expenditure from 1882 to 1942-43.

STATEMENT VII·4

Railway Earnings—Bhavnagar State

Year	Revenue receipts in Rs.	Revenue expenditure in Rs.
1	2	3
1882	581,680	335,477
1902 (1st January to 31st December)	692,094	391,882
1912-13 (1st November 1912 to 31st October 1913)	1,402,973	728,523
1922-23 (1st November 1922 to 31st October 1923)	3,303,056	1,953,642
1932-33 (1st August 1932 to 31st July 1933)	3,401,941	1,918,887
1942-43 (1st August 1942 to 31st July 1943)	4,967,072	2,220,885

Source :

Administration Reports, Bhavnagar State

With the rapid expansion of railways in this region, the problem of its management, organisation and control became complex. The working of so many independent lines in such a small territory created jealousies and rivalries among different States, which automatically came to an end with their integration into the State of Saurashtra. After the formation of Saurashtra State dual control over the railways remained for sometime. Though managed by the State of Saurashtra, ultimate control in certain matters vested in the Railway Board. This dual control disappeared when the railway management passed into the hands of the Government of India, and the Saurashtra Railways were amalgamated with the Western Railways in November, 1951.

The present position of Bhavnagar district in respect of railways may be said to be fairly satisfactory. The district has a railway length of 360·07 km. out of which 251.87 km. are metre gauge and 108.20 km. narrow gauge. Bhavnagar district thus has about 4 km. of railway for every 100 sq. km. Except Umrala, Gariadhar, Vallabhipur and Gogha, all the taluka head-quarters are connected with district headquarter by rail. In view of certain industrial developments proposed to be made in southern Saurashtra round about Bhavnagar, Veraval, Jafrabad and other places and the consequent increase in the movement of raw materials and machinery a broad gauge link from Tarapur to Bhavnagar requires to be urgently reconsidered.[1]

EXISTING RAIL LINKS

The existing rail links in the district are :

1 Surendranagar-Botad-Dhola-Bhavnagar
2 Ahmedabad-Botad
3 Botad-Jasdan
4 Ningala-Gadhada-Swaminarayan
5 Sihor-Palitana
6 Dhola-Jetalsar-Porbandar
7 Dhasa-Rajula-Mahuva and
8 Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva

Surendranagar-Botad-Dhola-Bhavnagar— This metre gauge line was opened for traffic in 1880. The total length of this line from Surendranagar to Bhavnagar is 161 km. The route passes through the following important stations :

(1) Botad which is an important trade and industrial centre in the district. Commodities like onions, chillies and stone-quarries are inloaded from this station for outward sale.

1. *Techno-Economic Survey of Gujarat*, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, p. 124

(2) Ningala junction from where a branch line to Gadhada-Swaminarayan starts carrying a large number of pilgrims everyday.

(3) Sihor junction, a taluka headquarter which is also a growing centre of industries like brasswares, ceramics, snuff, etc., a branch line to Palitana also starts from here.

Ahmedabad-Botad—Opened in 1922, it starts from Ahmedabad and runs towards Botad, via., Dholka-Dhandhuka. This 177 km. long metre gauge railway line connects Bhavnagar with Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat State and helps take off to Ahmedabad *kapachi* stone, cotton, dry chillies and other articles imported through Bhavnagar port. Botad is an important railway junction in this district where the metre gauge line from Surendranagar meets this line and then proceeds towards Bhavnagar. The bulk of the cotton supplied to Ahmedabad goes through Botad.

Botad-Jasdan—This metre gauge branch line was opened in 1913. It starts from Botad, runs up to Pipardi in this district and terminates at Jasdan, a junction station in Rajkot district. The length of this railway line in the district is only 21 km.

Ningala-Gadhada—Constructed in 1925 this metre gauge branch is the shortest railway line in the district covering a distance of only 15 km. It starts from Ningala, a junction station on Surendranagar-Bhavnagar line and terminates at Gadhada-Swaminarayan. This line mainly feeds pilgrim traffic to Swaminarayan temple at Gadhada.

Sihor-Palitana—This metre gauge branch line was opened in 1908. It starts from Sihor and runs towards Palitana, a famous place of pilgrimage for the Jains and covers in all a distance of 27 km. A through railway carriage from Palitana to Ahmedabad is provided to facilitate the Jain pilgrims coming from all over India. This carriage is attached to the mail train going from Bhavnagar to Ahmedabad.

Dhola-Jetalsar-Porbandar—This metre gauge line was opened in stages between 1881 and 1889. It starts in this district from Dhola, a junction station on Surendranagar-Bhavnagar line and terminates at Porbandar (Junagadh district). Only a portion of the first 27 km. of this 256 km. long railway line falls in Bhavnagar district. Excluding Dhola, there are two other important stations on this line, viz., Jalalpur, Mandva, and Dhasa junction from where wagon-loads of groundnuts are transhipped to other places.

Dhasa-Rajula-Mahuva—Opened in 1911-12, this metre gauge line starts from Dhasa, a junction station on Dhola-Jetalsar-Porbandar line and terminates at Mahuva covering a distance of 126 km. Large quantities of onions and groundnuts are carried through this line for onward supply to

different parts of Gujarat. Important stations on this line are Savarkundla, Gadhakda, Amritvel and Mahuva.

Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva—This is the only narrow gauge railway line in the district covering in all a distance of 109 km. It was constructed in two stages ; the section from Bhavnagar to Talaja was opened in 1926 and the one from Talaja to Mahuva in 1938. This line serves the vast hinterland of this district. It carries the bulk of milk supply to the city of Bhavnagar coming from the nearby villages of Bhudhel, Bhandaria, Tansa, etc., besides carrying large quantities of timber and onions from Mahuva and Talaja.

Passenger and Goods Traffic—The details about passengers and goods traffic booked in Bhavnagar district during 1961-62 are given in Statement VII·5 at the end of the Chapter.

WATERWAYS, FERRIES, BRIDGES, ETC.

Because of the fairly-long coast-line, the district possesses four working ports of which, Bhavnagar port is an intermediate port, while Mahuva, Gogha and Talaja are minor ports.

BHAVNAGAR PORT

It is a natural port in the western sea-board of India near the head of the Gulf of Cambay and about 200 miles to the north of Bombay. Lying on the eastern shore of Saurashtra peninsula, the port of Bhavnagar presents a number of notable features. It has had 200 years of interesting history behind it. The first mention of Bhavnagar as a port can be traced to the early part of the 18th century. Its enterprising commercial community traded far into the hinterland of India and across the sea. It has been recorded that in olden days, it served a vast hinterland which included places like Pali, Jodhpur, Sirohi, Udaipur, Jaipur, Ujjain, Ratlam, Indore, Burhanpur, Ahmedabad, Radhanpur, Palanpur, etc. Outside India, its trade extended in those days, to the ports of Arabian, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, the east coast of Africa, Mauritius, Ceylon, and even with the Straits Settlements and China. During the Bhavnagar State regime. the port enjoyed the status of a British Indian Customs Port.[1]

The port of Bhavnagar today is one of the most developed ports of Gujarat. This can be attributed to three factors : (1) its geographical situation, (2) modern facilities provided at the port and (3) direct railway connection with the hinterland. The rulers of the former Bhavnagar State evinced keen interest in the development of maritime trade. Before the construction of the concrete jetty (in 1933), all the sea traffic was handled at the old site of the creek close to the town of Bhavnagar. In course of time, this

1. For details, see Chapter VI— Banking, Trade and Commerce

site was getting silted up so fast that it threatened the existence of Bhavnagar as a port. A harbour improvement scheme was, therefore, undertaken in 1933 by the State with a view to provide quay-accommodation. This scheme resulted in the construction of what is known as 'concrete jetty' providing berthing facilities for two ocean going steamers completely equipped with all modern means for handling cargo.

Lock-gate Scheme

As the tidal range at Bhavnagar port is very high it was necessary to have continuous dredging and to maintain proper depth in the basin to ensure floatation of ships with the receding tide. The port was equipped with a large number of dredgers, but they were not able to check further silting. To overcome the difficulty and to impound the water in the basin, a scheme of lock-gate construction was undertaken. The idea was that heavily silt-laden water with the rising tide should not be admitted in the basin, so that silting would be appreciably reduced. The gate is so designed that at low water it can be lifted up to scour the approach channel. A single tension gate and arrangement of lifting it up at low water, with the impounded water in the basin, are the unique features not employed so far in any Indian harbour. The most interesting peculiarity of this project is the gate which is of the segmental diaphragm type, eminently suited for heavy silt condition of Bhavnagar. Its normal function is to hold the water in the dock at a sufficiently high level. It is strong enough also to withstand a reverse head when the water on the downstream side is as much as 5 feet higher than the impounded level. An automatic signal has been incorporated in the structure and will sound the alarm, if the outside water level rises more than 5 feet above the level of the water in the dock. Should this occur the gate must be lifted to enable water to enter the dock. The construction of the lock-gate was started in 1957, and completed in 1961 at a cost of little less than a crore of rupees. Ships have now started berthing in the docks. A new dry dock is proposed to be provided in the port area in Bhavnagar during the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

Port Facilities

Lighterage—A fleet of lighters is maintained by the port authorities for serving steamers berthed at the anchorage. There are 16 such barges in the fleet, having a capacity of 100 to 150 tons each. The port also provides towage facility between the jetty and the ships. There are in all five tugs and one coal-*cum*-water barge.

Cranage—The quay berths at the Bhavnagar docks are equipped with five 3 ton oil-fired cranes having a maximum radius of 45 feet and minimum radius of 25 feet. One 3 ton crane and two 5 ton electric cranes are available for use in the port area at the steel jetty.

Transit Sheds—At the concrete jetty there are four fully covered transit sheds with floor space of 106,560 sq. feet. In the steel jetty area there are seven transit sheds and two godowns with a space of 111,135 sq. feet.

Godowns and Storage Sheds—There are forty-eight sheds with one hundred fifty partitions in the port area and three godowns with twelve partitions in the city area with an aggregate floor area of 599,570 sq. feet, besides ample open storage space available in places adjacent to the storage and transit sheds and near the quays. Dumping plots to hold large quantity of bulk cargo like iron and coal are also available.

Air and Rail Connection—There is a regular air service operating between Bombay and Bhavnagar. Bhavnagar is also well connected with the metre gauge railway system serving its natural hinterland and the important centres of trade and industry. The port is well served by roads and telegraph, telephone and wireless communications. Geographically also Bhavnagar is very advantageously located, being the nearest port to Ahmedabad, Baroda and Central India.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Imports

At present the following commodities are imported into Bhavnagar; betel-nut from Bombay, Singapore and Malabar; foodgrains from U. S. A.; building materials from Bombay and Malabar; coconut from Ratnagiri and Malabar; cotton from Broach, Bombay and Egypt; coir-yarn from Malabar; timber from Broach, Surat and Malabar; mineral oil from Persian Gulf and Bombay; and iron ore from Bengal, U. K. and other ports of Europe and Japan.

Exports

Commodities exported from Bhavnagar along with their destinations are bone-meals to U.K. ports and Bombay; cotton (raw) to Japan, Bombay and ports of U.K.; foodgrains to Bombay; groundnut and oil to U.K. and to some ports of Europe; iron ore to Japan; onion to Ceylon, Singapore and Bombay; and salt to Calcutta and Japan.

MAHUVA

Mahuva is a tidal port which remains closed during monsoon. A timber jetty provides for loading and unloading of sailing vessels. Mahuva is connected with Bhavnagar by a metre gauge as well as narrow gauge railway lines. The means of transport between Mahuva port and Mahuva railway station are motor trucks and bullock carts. Imports consist of building materials, cotton seeds, gunny bags, grain and pulses, iron and steel, mineral oils, timber, etc. Foodgrains, oil cakes, groundnut, lime and lime-stones, salt, onion, etc., are the chief commodities of export. The port though not

useful for foreign traffic is considerably important for coastal traffic which is mainly carried on with ports of South Gujarat and Bombay.

SARTANPAR (TALAJA)

This minor port lies between Bhavnagar and Mahuva on the west coast of the Gulf of Cambay. It is a small sub-port for coastal traffic. There is a small godown to meet the needs of local traffic. The chief commodities of import at this port are cotton seeds, timber, building materials and kerosene which are imported from Bombay, Malabar and Konkan. Onion, *ghee*, and groundnut are the principal items of export. The entire traffic at this port is coastal through sailing vessels only.

GOGHA

Situated on the western shore of the Gulf of Cambay, this is a tidal port and sailing vessels enter and leave the harbour only at high tides. The larger sailing vessels anchor at a distance little less than half a mile off-shore. Smaller ones anchor near the Customs House and unload cargo directly on the shore. Cotton seed, groundnut seed, kerosene and cattle are the chief items of import; exports include onions, salt, clay, cattle and groundnut. These commodities are mainly imported from or exported to Surat, Broach, Bombay, Dahej and Bhagwa ports.

Port Administration

The administration of all Gujarat ports vests in the central office at Ahmedabad known as the office of the Director of Ports, which is under the administrative control of the Government of Gujarat in the Public Works Department. For the purposes of administration all ports of Gujarat State are divided into eight groups, each headed by a Port Officer or Engineering Officer or Assistant Port Officer with his headquarters at the most important port of the group. Bhavnagar group of ports comprises : (1) Bhavnagar (intermediate), Talaja (minor), Gogha (minor) and Dholera (minor). Dholera is in Dhandhuka taluka of Ahmedabad district. Bhavnagar group of ports is headed by a Port Officer. Mahuva port is the headquarters of Mahuva group of ports which came into being with effect from 20th October, 1961. It is headed by an Assistant Port Officer. Mahuva group comprises five non-intermediate ports viz., Simar, Rajpara, Jafrabad, Rajula and Mahuva. The Executive Engineer (Civil), Bhavnagar has Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Veraval and Broach under his jurisdiction while the Executive Engineer (Mechanical), Bhavnagar looks after all ports in the State for the purpose of mechanical engineering works.

Ferry Services

Kala Talav Ferry—This service runs departmentally between Bhavnagar port and the opposite bank of the creek. It facilitates the people to come to

Bhavnagar city either for work or for selling products from villages situated in the Bhal areas. The distance is very small, 'almost a crow fly distance'. The crafts used for the service are usually wooden hull petrol boats. This is a perennial service. Nominal fare of only three paise for single journey and five paise for return journey is charged.

Madhia Ferry—This service runs on an annual contract system to provide facilities to the poeple of Madhia village in the Bhal who bring local products for sale in Bhavnagar city. The contractor charges a fare of three paise per passenger.

Bhagwa Ferry—This service runs on a yearly licence basis between Gogha and Bhagwa. The average yearly traffic is of about 1,500 passengers for inward and outward journeys.

No ferry services are available at Talaja and Mahuva which are minor ports.

Bridges and Causeways

There are 29 major bridges and causeways in the district, most of which are constructed after 1947. Appendix III at the end of the Chapter gives details about these bridges and causeways.

Air Transport

In the United State of Saurashtra there were six aerodromes at Jamnagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Morvi, Porbandar and Keshod and eight landing strips. The air service at Bhavnagar was started in November 1946. In 1949 the administration of the air ports was taken over by the Saurashtra Government. Prior to that the Bhavnagar aerodrome was administered by the former State itself. There was one regular scheduled air service passing daily through Bhavnagar and running between Bombay, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad. Before integration there was no air service which connected the important towns of Saurashtra with Rajkot. All the former services aimed at linking important towns of Saurashtra with Bombay. After integration when the administration of the airports was taken over by the Saurashtra Government it became necessary to connect Rajkot, the State capital, by air with important ports, towns and district headquarters for efficient administration and convenience of business. Rajkot was soon after connected with Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Keshod and Jamnagar under a licence given by the Air Transport Licencing Board to the Air Services of India Ltd. Earlier the various States of Kathiawar had entered into agreements with the Aviation Companies by which the latter were allowed to land at their aerodromes free of charge. From 1st April, 1950 the administration and maintenance of aerodromes which were still then either a function of the princely States or the Aviation Company passed on to the Government of India and the administration of the landing strips passed over to the Saurashtra Government.

Bhavnagar aerodrome started functioning in 1938. It is approached by two different routes; one is nearly 8 km. from the city proper and the other 5.23 km. The shorter one is motorable only during fair season and the longer one can be used throughout the year. At present Bhavnagar is connected with Bombay by a daily air service.

Posts and Telegraphs

The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department maintains a postal division at Bhavnagar, comprising three revenue districts, viz., Bhavnagar, Amreli and Surendranagar. In the year 1961-62 there were 240 post offices, 14 telegraph offices and 16 telephone offices in the district. On an average there was one post office for 4,664 persons. By 1961-62 the telegraph as well as telephonic facilities were available at all the taluka headquarters.

STATEMENT VII.6

Post Offices, 1961-62

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	No. of post offices	No. of postmen	No. of letter boxes	No. of villages without post office
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Bhavnagar	19	52	90	39
2	Botad	22	9	55	30
3	Gadhada	31	2	63	42
4	Gariadhar	12	1	16	38
5	Gogha	17	1	13	46
6	Kundla	33	7	108	51
7	Mahuva	27	8	87	100
8	Palitana	16	9	72	79
9	Sihor	20	8	76	50
10	Talaja	20	2	85	92
11	Umrala	12	1	43	31
12	Vallabhipur	11	1	20	50
	Total	**240**	**101**	**728**	648

Source :

District Statistical Abstract of Bhavnagar District, 1961-62, Bureau of Economics and Statistics

In addition to its normal functions which include sale of postage stamps, post-cards and envelopes and money order remittances, savings bank facilities are offered to the public at head offices and sub-offices. A combined office (C. O.) renders normal postal service with telegraph service. Those villages which do not have a post-office are served by the nearby branch office which delivers the post either daily or periodically.

Telephones

The biggest exchange in the peninsula was the auto-telephone exchange at Bhavnagar city which was established in 1935-36 during the former Bhavnagar State regime. The automatic exchange was initially installed for 200 lines with a further provision for extension up to 300 lines made in March, 1936. After the formation of the State of Saurashtra in 1948 the telephone system was taken over by the Posts and Telegraphs Department with effect from 1st April, 1950. As the auto-excha nge installed by the

Bhavnagar State was destroyed by fire in 1951, a C. B. manual exchange of 500 lines capacity was installed in its place in the same year which continued till August 1965 when the automatic exchange was again introduced. At present (1965) the Bhavnagar auto-exchange has about 1,000 telephone lines in the city. Other places where telephone facilities exist in the district are Botad, Mahuva, Palitana, Talaja, Savarkundla, Gariadhar, Gadhada, Vallabhipur, Sihor and Umrala. Details about telephone connections, type and capacity of the exchange system in operation in the district, number of public call offices, etc., are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT VII·7

Telephone Exchanges, Public Call Offices and Trunk Line Alignment, etc., as on 31st March, 1965

Sl. No.	Name of telephone exchange		The year of opening	Total No. of telephone con-nections	Total No. of public call offices	Trunk line align-ments	Type of exchange and capacity (in brackets)
1	2		3	4	5	6	7
1	Bhavnagar	..	1935-36	981	11	8	Auto (1,800 lines)
2	Botad	..	1955	80	7	2	C. B. N. M.* (100 lines)
3	Vallabhipur	..	1958	15	2	1	S. A. X.†(125 lines)
4	Gadhada	..	1958	..	1	Nil	P. C. O.‡
5	Talaja	..	1955	31	2	1	S. A. X. (50 lines)
6	Mahuva	..	1956	186	2	1	C. B. N. M. (300 lines)
7	Palitana	..	1954	54	1	1	C. B. N. M. (60 lines)
8	Sihor	..	1954	58	1	1	C. B. N. M. (60 lines)
9	Gariadhar	..	1963	Nil	1	Nil	P. C. O.
10	Umrala	..	1956	146	1	1	C. B. N. M. (200 lines)
	Total	..		1,551	29	16	..

* C. B. N. M. = Central Battery Non-multiple
† S. A. X. = A type of automatic exchange
‡ P. C. O. = Public Call Office

Source :
Divisional Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Rajkot

Radio Wireless

There is no broadcasting station in the district. Radio receiving sets which began to be used in the early thirties of this century in the district and in other parts of India are becoming more and more popular day by day. During the year 1961-62, 2,452 new radio licences were issued and 8,593 old licences were renewed in the district.[1]

Rural Broadcasting

Rural Broadcasting Scheme is operated by the Rural Broadcasting Section of the Directorate of Information, Government of Gujarat, which instals and maintains the radio sets and takes out the necessary licenses for their use under a scheme known as the 'Contributory Scheme.' The Central Government contributes 50 per cent or Rs. 125 per radio set whichever is less. The installation and maintenance charges are borne by the participating villages. The number of radio sets installed in this way in the district till March, 1963 was 153.

1. Bureau of Economics and Statistics, *District Statistical Abstract, Bhavnagar*, 1961-62

STATEMENT

STATEMENT VII-5

Number of Passengers and Tonnage of Goods Booked at each Station in Bhavnagar District, 1961-62

Sl. No.	Section	Station		No. of passengers booked at each station	Goods booked at each station (in tons)
1	2	3		4	5
1	Surendranagar-Botad-Dhola Bhavnagar (Metre gauge)	Botad junction ..	..	460,568	4,453
		Lathidad ..	..	37,056	134
		Ningala junction ..	..	135,473	125
		Alampar ..	..	11,211	160
		Ujalvav ..	..	47,524	170
		Dhola junction ..	..	275,034	1,211
		Sanosra ..	..	71,882	15
		Bajud ..	..	15,654	..
		Songadh ..	..	119,745	21
		Mota Surka ..	..	8,444	—
		Sihor junction ..	..	308,420	169
		Khodiyar mandir ..	..	112,703	217
		Vartej ..	..	143,314	110
		Nari road ..	..	5,625	..
		Bhavnagar Para ..	..	30,419	5,303
		Bhavnagar terminus	..	1,015,158	3,733
		Total for the section	..	*2,798,227*	*15,821*
2	Ahmedabad-Botad (Metre gauge)	Botad.. ..	..	..	..
		Total for the section	..	..	..
3	Botad-Jasdan (Metre gauge) ..	Bhadravadi ..	..	18,787	..
		Paliyad road ..	..	6,044	38
		Pipardi ..	..	14,062	..
		Total for the section	..	*38,893*	*38*
4	Ningala-Gadhada ..	Jhinjhawadar ..	..	6,048	..
		Ugamedi ..	..	22,009	..
		Gadhada Swaminarayan	..	52,028	23
		Total for the section	..	*80,085*	*23*
5	Sihor-Palitana (Metre gauge) ..	Kanad ..	..	11,905	—
		Madhada ..	..	56,633	38
		Palitana ..	..	243,282	90
		Sihor ..	..	..	—
		Total for the section	..	*311,820*	*128*
6	Dhola-Jetalsar-Porbandar .. (Metre gauge)	Jalalpur Mandva ..	..	19,206	—
		Dhasa Junction ..	..	286,589	91
		Total for the section	..	*305,795*	*91*

Source :

Divisional Superintendent, Western Railway, Bhavnagar

STATEMENT VII-5—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Section	Station	No. of passengers booked at each station	Goods booked at each station (In tons)
1	2	3	4	5
7	Dhasa-Rajula Mahuva (Metre gauge)	Jira road	57,692	10
		Savarkundla	261,626	666
		Badhada	29,541	—
		Gadhakda	38,794	12
		Vijapadi road	59,571	..
		Mota-Jadra	..	..
		Amratvel	86,168	29
		Mahuva	163,864	295
		Total for the section	*697,256*	*1,012*
8	Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva (Narrow gauge)	Manekwadi	40,141	—
		Takhteshwar	65,766	—
		Krishnanagar	37,413	2
		Adhevada	13,612	—
		Budhel	29,906	—
		Kobdi	50,000	—
		Bhadi	9,669	—
		Bhadi-Bhandaria	56,300	12
		Tanaa	48,339	—
		Dihor	12,103	—
		Trapaj	57,172	..
		Trapaj bungalow	7,590	—
		Velavadar	7,913	—
		Talaja	108,020	—
		Pavthi	2,614	—
		Phulsar	11,120	—
		Gopnath road	41,354	—
		Mangela	6,595	35
		Datha road	49,590	—
		Lilvan	2,484	—
		Longdi	25,599	—
		Otha road	32,540	6
		Bhadrod	14,989	—
		Talgajarda	8,728	—
		Total for the section	739,557	55
		Grand Total	**4,971,633**	**17,168**

APPENDIX I

Other District Roads

Sl. No.	Road	Length in km.
1	Junasavar-Bhoringda-Charodia Road	7.84
2	Vallabhipur-Anandpur-Paliyad Road	7.04
3	Bhavnagar-Hathab-Lakhanka Road	32.19
4	Bhavnagar-Nari Road	8.05
5	Mahuva-Vaghnagar-Datha-Vejodri Road	29.37
6	Talaja-Gopnath-Gadhada Road	23.33
7	Nonghanvadar-Piparla Road	14.08
8	Palitana-Pingali Road	11.16
9	Palitana-Moti Vavdi Road	27.36
10	Sihor-Tana-Varal-Dihor Road	32.19
11	Sihor-Nesda-Road	3.22
12	Badhada-Thordi-Rajula Road	14.08
13	Kundla-Junasavar Road	15.29
14	Botad-Sarangpur Road	8.05
15	Botad-Zamrala Road	26.15
16	Gadhada-Bhadli Road	16.09
17	Gadhada-Gadhali Road	20.92
18	Gadhada-Ningala-Rohisala-Mul Dharai Road	29.77
19	Botad-Turkha Road	14.48
20	Thalia-Ralgon-Otha Road	32.19
21	Ratanpur-Ningala Road	8.85
22	Navagam-Movasa Road	15.69
23	Nana-Khokhra-Ukharla Road	15.29
24	Trapaj-Manar-Road	7.04
25	Kundla-Jikiali Road	5.43
26	Songadh-Pipalia-Chamardi Road	9.66
27	Creek to Kalatalao Road	4.02
28	Dhola-Gariadhar-Shelna Road	32.19
29	Dihor-Railway Station to Pingali Road	18.71
30	Gogha-Tansa Road	29.96
31	Bhankhal-Tansa-Khokhra-Rajpara Road	19.31
32	Valukad-Khokhra Road	18.51
33	Kukad-Morchand-Padva Road	20.12
34	Sanodar-Odarka-Kukad Road	11.67
35	Valukad-Kanad Road	22.53
	Total	609.08

Source :

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Bhavnagar

APPENDIX II

Village Roads

Sl. No.	Road	Length in km.
1	Naip-Kalsar-Malvav Road	7.04
2	Dihor-Thadach Road	10.46
3	Vartej Station Road	1.81
4	Gopnath Station Road	6.44
5	Trapaj Station Road	3.42
6	Mahuva-Umaniavadar Road	2.41
7	Bhandaria-Khokhra Road	3.62
8	Olia-Simran Road	3.22
9	Mota-Charodia-Kuntana Road	1.61
10	Palitana-Tansa Road	16.51
11	Dhinkwali-Samadhiala Road	2.01
12	Keria-Ningala Road	0.80
13	Chakampar-Rohisala Road	3.02
14	Ratanvav-Zamrala Road	3.82
15	Sajoli-Lathidad Road	3.82
16	Rangpar-Turkha Road	4.43
17	Bhada-Nana Charodia Road	6.54
18	Limbda-Nana Chhaida Road	3.42
19	Kaniad-Targhara Road	2.62
20	Godhadia-Ratanpar Road	6.44
21	Mahuva-Katar Road	3.82
22	Bhanvad-Dundas Road	5.43
23	Longdi-Loyanga Road	3.42
24	Malvav-Boda-Otha Road	9.86
25	Sathra-Naip Road	3.62
26	Loyanga-Kasan Road	3.62
27	Borda-Vatalia-Datha Road	6.84
28	Pasvi-Padri Road	3.42
29	Patana-Khandhera Road	4.23
30	Talaja-Sakhvadar Road	5.23
31	Manar-Sathara Road	6.84
32	Timana-Royal-Talaja Road	10.46
33	Velavadar-Devalia-Padri Road	15.69
34	Pithalpur-Zanzmer Road	4.02
35	Budhel-Nagdhanimba Road	3.62
36	Khadsalia Road	1.61
37	Dudhala-Khuntavda Road	7.24
38	Hajipar-Ghana-Thalia Road	12.27
39	Mahuva-Talaja Road	7.04
40	Kuntana-Dudadhar Road	5.23
41	Padargadh-Pasvi Road	10.89
42	Datha Station Road	3.42
43	Khumbhan Approach Road	1.87
44	Bhandar-Valukad Road	8.45
45	Bhadi-Nagdhanimba Road	2.62

Source :

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Bhavnagar

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Road	Length in km.
46	Bhadrod Station Road	2.41
47	Dhola-Padva Road	3.62
48	Dharuka-Umrala Road	6.64
49	Umrala-Chamardi Road	11·46
50	Palitana Hill Road	10.86
51	Chok-Ralgon Road	17.70
52	Khodiyar Station Road	2.81
53	Palitana-Gheti Road	6.44
54	Gadhada Station Road	3.82
55	Vijapadi Station Road	4.02
56	Jira Station Road	4.63
57	Simran-Jira Road	6.03
58	Rohishala-*kadamgiri* Road	16.90
59	Gadhada-Adtala Road	3.22
60	Chok-Jesar Road	11.87
61	Kareda Approach Road	1.81
62	Lakadia Approach Road	2.01
63	Morchand Approach Road	3.62
64	Nana Khokhra-Mota Khokhra Road	2.21
65	Gariadhar-Bhandaria Road	10.66
66	Jesar-Asrana Road	20.12
67	Dhola-Gariadhar-Shelna Road	14.48
68	Bhavnagar-Hathab-Lakhanka Road	11.27
69	Navagam-Monpur Road	2.01
70	Ratanpar-Shahpur Road	1.81
71	Khijadia-Malapara Road	3.02
72	Nana Khokhra-Bhinkda Road	10.89
73	Bhadli-Rabarika Road	4.43
74	Velavadar Approach Road	1.21
75	Avania Approach Road	1.21
76	Chaniyala Approach Road	1.61
77	Samadhiala No. 2-Kariyani Road	3·62
78	Vanali Approach Road	0.60
79	Kalyanpur Approach Road	1.00
80	Thordi-Tagdi Road	3.23
81	Lakadia-Trapaj Bungalow Road	1.61
82	Mota-Charodia-Kalyanpur Road	2.01
83	Madhada-Mokhadka Road	4.43
84	Royal Approach Road	1.81
85	Velavadar Station Road	0.40
86	Dihor-Rajpara Road	1.21
87	Bhadrod-Taredi Road	1.41
88	Khadkala Approach Road	1.21
89	Khakhria-Nonghanvadar-Piparla Road	3.42
90	Gheti-Jalia Road	2.01
91	Mota Charodia-Krankach Road	3.02
92	Dedarda Approach Road	0.60
93	Pati-Pipardi Road	0.80
94	Kukad Approach Road	0.60
95	Kumbhara Approach Road	0.20

APPENDIX II-*concld.*

Sl. No.	Road	Length in km.
96	Ratanpar Approach Road..	0.40
97	Keria-Umrala Road	3.82
98	Viravadi-Gadhada-Bhadli Road	1.61
99	Lakhanka Approach Road to Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad Road..	1.00
100	Kalsar-Diyal Road	1.61
101	Valar-Datha Road	3.22
102	Chamardi Approach Road to Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad Road..	0.80
103	Shahpur Approach Road ..	0.80
104	Kanjarda-Gheti-Jalia Road	1.00
105	Ambardi Approach Road ..	1.00
	Total	501·31

Source :

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Bhavnagar

APPENDIX III
Major Bridges and Causeways

Sl. No.	Bridge / Causeways	Road	Category	River	Length of bridge in metres	Cost of bridge in Rs.	Year of construction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Bridge ..	Rajkot-Bhavnagar	S. H.	Maleshri	128.02	192,491	1954
2	„ ..	„	„	Gangeshri	50.29	190,700	1955
3	„ ..	„	„	Sonapari	52.43	157,570	1956
4	„ ..	„	„	Gadhuli	76.61	155,097	1958
5	„ ..	„	„	Rangholi	149.35	355,608	1959
6	Causeway ..	„	„	Dhasia	42.06	52,963	1954
7	Bridge ..	„	„	*Nehra*	36.57	N. A.	N. A.
8	Causeway ..	Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad	„	Papachia	47.85	N. A.	1961
9	„ ..	„	„	Khari	127.10	263,985	1955
10	„ ..	„	„	Rangholi	70.10	355,608 (for 10 and 11)	1955
11	„ ..	„	„	*Nehra*	42.06		
12	„ ..	„	„	Kalubhar	338.66	389,584	1955
13	Bridge ..	„	„	Utavuli	64.10	N. A.	N. A.
14	„ ..	„	„	Ghelo	83.21	„	„
15	„ ..	„	„	Sarassadi	83.21	„	„

Source :

Executive Engineers, R and B Division, Public Works Department and Panchayat Division, Bhavnagar

APPENDIX III—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Bridge / Causeways	Road	Category	River	Length of bridge in metres	Cost of bridge in Rs.	Year of construction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	Bridge ..	Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad	S. H.	*Nehra*	24.00	N. A.	1960
17	" ..	"	"	*Nehra*	30.48	"	1960
18	" ..	"	"	Daredio	15.30	"	N. A.
19	" ..	"	"	*Khal-Khalia*	45.72	N. A.	N. A.
20	" ..	"	"	Kori	153.92	"	"
21	" ..	Mahuva-Kundla	M.D.R.	Garasva	35.05	"	"
22	" ..	"	"	Jamvali	60.66	45,901	"
23	" ..	"	"	Fulzar	50.29	69,114	1953
24	" ..	Sayla-Botad	"	Rasanalio	63.09	78,382	1956
25	Causeway ..	Dhasa Road	"	Kalubhar	92.96	N. A.	N. A.
26	" ..	"	"	Sitapuri	63.09	88,000	1957
27	" ..	"	"	Ghelo	186.23	256,517	1958
28	Bridge .	Dhasa-Gadhada Road	"	Keri	137.16	417,128	1963-64
29	Causeway ..	"	"	Goma	94.50	168,842	1964-65
30	" ..	"	"	Sukhbhadar	114.30	N. A.	N. A.
31	" ..	"	"	Lindia	45.72	80,542	1960 61
32	Bridge ..	Kundla-Amreli	M D.R.	Shell	216.41	136,442	1956
33	" ..	Botad-Paliyad-Surendranagar	"	Sukhbhadar	128.93	216,749	1957
34	" ..	Badhada-Thordi-Rajula	O.D.R	Limbado	43.28	92,880	1957
35	" ..	Vallabhipur-Umrala-Dhola Ranghola	S.H.	Kalubhar	183.49	565,889	1959
36	" ..	"	"	Daredio	27.43	N. A.	N. A.
37	" ..	Gogha-Vartej	M.D.R.	Khara	37.70	N. A.	1963
38	" —	"	"	Muleshri	41.45	"	1941
39	" ..	Bhavnagar-Hathab	O D.R.	"	45.72	141,665	1961
40	" ..	Mahuva Bunder Road	M D.R.	Malan	91.44	249,248	1962
41	" ..	Okha-Porbandar Mahuva-Bhavnagar	S.H.	Bagad	76.10	171,356	1964-65

N. A.=Not Available S. H.=State Highway; M. D. R.=Major District Road ; O. D. R.=Other District Road

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONAL DIVISIONS

The two concepts 'industry' and 'occupation' are quite distinct. 'Industry' signifies that sector of economic activity in which the earner is engaged, e.g., textile industry, automobile industry, etc., whereas the term 'occupation' connotes the exact function that the person performs in that economic activity, e.g., fitter, blacksmith, wiremen, etc.

The following statement classifies the occupations of persons at work other than cultivation in 1961.

STATEMENT VIII·1

Occupational Classification of Persons at Work other than Cultivation, 1961

Sl. No.	Category	Workers			
		Total	Per cent	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Professional, Technical and Related Workers	9,748	5.82	5,462	4,286
2	Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	3,498	2.09	2,250	1,248
3	Clerical and Related Workers	10,061	6.01	9,169	892
4	Sales Workers	24,248	14.49	15,684	8,564
5	Farmers, Fishermen, Hunters, Loggers and Related Workers	21,684	12.96	3,493	18,191
6	Miners, Quarrymen and Related Workers ..	711	0.42	333	378
7	Workers in Transport and Communication Occupations	7,994	4.78	6,055	1,939
8	Craftsmen, Production Process Workers and Labourers (Not elsewhere classified) ..	77,236	46.14	36,584	40,652
9	Service, Sport and Recreation Workers ..	11,571	6.91	7,988	3,583
10	Workers (Not classified by occupation) ..	630	0.38	16	614

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

The most important category of occupations besides agriculture was " Craftsmen, Production Process Workers, and Labourers, not elsewhere classified", accounting for 46·14 per cent of the total workers (other than those engaged in cultivation). Another important category was " Farmers, Fishermen, Hunters, Loggers and Related Workers" which claimed 12·96 per cent of the workers (other than those engaged in cultivation), 'Sales

Workers' accounted for 14·49 per cent; "Professional, Technical, and Related Workers" and "Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers" 5·82 per cent and 2·09 per cent respectively; "Service, Sport and Recreation Workers" 6·91 per cent and "Clerical and Related Workers" 6·01 per cent. The relatively higher proportion of persons at work as Craftsmen, etc., reflects the progress in industrialisation the district has been making in recent times, besides trade and commerce which alone were important hithertofore.

There is quite an appreciable percentage of the population, which earns its livelihood on small trades and professions like tailoring, restaurant and tea-shops, laundries, hair-cutting saloons, bakeries, cycle-repairing, manufacture of aerated waters, etc., and by being engaged in professions like education, law, medicine, etc. A rapid growth of such occupations is both a factor in the pace of urbanisation and an index of the degree of prosperity and economic stability of the district. Miscellaneous occupations which indicate those economic activities of the population take into consideration (a) trades and professions which involve production of goods of daily consumption or rendering of some useful service to the community (like bakeries, tailoring, etc.) and (b) economic activities that also serve a social purpose (like education, medicine, etc.).

THE CENSUS, 1961

Statement VIII·2 at the end of the Chapter gives miscellaneous occupations as returned by 1961 Census.

Persons engaged as "Tailors, cutters, furriers and related workers" (4,801) as well as those working as teachers (4,432) claimed the largest number. Among the latter those working in middle and primary schools claimed the largest number, while those in higher education the smallest. Persons engaged in "Arts, letters, and science" numbered 3,927, of whom those engaged as "Artists, writers, social scientists, other professional technical and related workers" far outnumbered those engaged as "Biologists, veterinarians, and draftsmen and science and engineering technicians." Other important professions include physicians, surgeons and dentists (513), nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians (651), jurists (179), bakers, confectioners, etc., (478), launderers (723), and administrative and executive government officials (1,332).

Considering the strength of workers in the urban and rural areas, it is seen that the number of persons working in each of the above categories of occupations was larger in urban areas than in the rural areas, except in such occupations as :

1 Biologists, Veterinarians, and Related Workers

2 Artists, Writers, and Related Workers,

3 Administrative and Executive Government Officials,

4 Tailors, Cutters, Furriers and Related Workers,

5 Dairy Workers and

6 Barbers, Hair-dressers, Beauticians and Related Workers.

This is as it should be in view of the greater ratio of persons living in villages where the demand for their services is obviously greater. The rest of the occupations reflect larger employment opportunities in towns than in villages.

Analysing the sex ratio of workers, it is found that females preponderate in such occupations as dairy workers (non-farm), house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers where they are in greater demand than males. It also indicates the limited scope women have for employment in gainful pursuits which are mostly those which they can take up along with their household duties.

LIBERAL PROFESSIONS

The Census of 1961 has returned a total number of 4,432 teachers, of whom 3,356 were engaged in the middle and primary schools, 746 in secondary schools, 122 in University (i.e., higher education institutions) and 208 who were 'others'. This profession claimed 3,159 males and 1,273 females, the strength of women teachers being relatively higher in the primary and middle schools and comparatively much less in higher education.

LEGAL

According to the 1961 Census there were 155 legal practitioners and advisers in the district. Compilation of data in 1962-63 showed 132 lawyers distributed as follows in various towns of the district.

(1) Bhavnagar 76, (2) Botad 10, (3) Gadhada 4, (4) Kundla 6, (5) Palitana 11, (6) Sihor 3, (7) Vallabhipur 5, (8) Umrala 2, (9) Talaja 3, (10) Gogha 1 and (11) Mahuva 11.

MEDICINE

According to the 1961 Census 1,164 persons (923 men and 241 women) were engaged in medical and other health services. The break-up of these services is as follows.

Sl. No.	Groups	Males	Females	Total
1	Physicians, surgeons and dentists ...	482	31	513
2	Nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians ...	441	210	651

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCE

Persons returned under 'Arts, letters and science' were engaged in the following occupations.

STATEMENT VIII·3

Number of Persons Engaged in Different Occupations under 'Arts, Letters and Science', 1961

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	Architects, Engineers and Surveyors ..	211	—	211
2	Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and Related Scientists	24	—	24
3	Social Scientists and Related Workers ..	207	17	224
4	Artists, Writers and Related Workers* ..	594	49	643
	(a) Authors	7	40	47
	(b) Editors, Journalists and Related Workers	9	..	9
	(c) Translators, Interpretors and Language Specialists	3	—	3
	(d) Painters, Decorators and Commercial Artists	56	3	59
	(e) Sculptors and Modellers ..	5	..	5
	(f) Artists, Writers and Related Workers, not elsewhere classified ..	10	1	11
	(g) Actors and Related Workers ..	114	1	115
	(h) Musicians and Related Workers ..	390	4	394
5	Draftsmen and Science and Engineering Technicians	68	2	70
6	Other Professional Technical and Related Workers (including Ordained and Non-ordained Religious Workers; Astrologers, Palmists and Related Workers, etc.) ..	2,481	274	2,755
	Total	3,585	342	3,927

* The figures include families having less than 1 per cent of the workers.

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Jobs in public administrative services are highly valued both by the educated and the uneducated persons. A fairly large number of persons in this district is employed in public administration. The 1961 Census distributes 1,332 persons engaged in public administrative services in the district under the following occupations.

STATEMENT VIII·4

Number of Persons Engaged in Administrative Services, 1961

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
1	Administrators and Executive Officials ...	1,309	23	1,332
2	Administrators and Executive Officials, Central Government	74	3	77
3	Administrators and Executive Officials, State Government	230	11	241
4	Administrators and Executive Officials, Local Bodies	77	...	77
5	Administrators and Executive Officials, Quasi-Government	52	2	54
6	Village Officials	876	7	883

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

SELECTED OCCUPATIONS (BHAVNAGAR CITY)

A sample survey of a few selected occupations was conducted in Bhavnagar city in 1962 with a view to presenting a broad picture of the economic condition prevailing in these occupations. The broad trends and conclusions arrived at therefrom help understand the role of miscellaneous occupations in the city and in the district. Absolute figures of establishments and persons employed in the occupations covered are furnished by the Bhavnagar municipal authorities.

The following statement gives the number of such establishments and the number of persons employed in Bhavnagar city in 1962.

STATEMENT VIII·5

Number of Persons, by Sex, Engaged in Certain Selected Occupations in Bhavnagar City, 1962

Sl. No.	Occupations	No. of establishments	Percentage to total number of establishments	Persons employed inclusive of employer				Percentage to total number of persons employed
				Males	Females	Children	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Bakeries ..	34	1.20	52	...	2	54	1.06
2	Hotels, lodging houses, restaurants, and manufacture of aerated waters	468	16 53	1,428	78	423	1,929	37·75
3	Sweets and *farsans* ..	183	6 46	390	...	18	408	7·98
4	*Pan-bidi* ..	646	22·81	715	7	18	740	14·48
5	Hair-cutting saloons	234	8·27	310	..	..	310	6·07
6	Flour mills ..	145	5·12	178	...	..	178	3.49
7	Goldsmiths ..	234	8·27	258	...	..	258	5.05
8	Laundries ..	110	3·89	160	9	..	169	3·30
9	Cycle repairing ..	262	9·26	410	...	..	410	8·02
10	Tailoring ..	515	18·19	620	...	34	654	12·80
	Total ..	**2,831**	**100·00**	**4,521**	**94**	**495**	**5,110**	**100·00**

Source :

Chief Officer, Bhavnagar Borough Municipality

Pan-bidi shops (22·81 per cent), tailoring establishments (18·19 per cent) and hotels, restaurants and lodging houses, manufacture of aerated waters (16·53 per cent) claimed the largest percentage and together accounted for 57·53 per cent of the establishments investigated. Cycle repairing units are 9·28 per cent, and hair-cutting saloons and goldsmith shops claim 8·27 per cent each. Other occupations worthy of note are sweets and *farsan* shops, flour mills, laundries and bakeries. From the point of employment offered, hotels, lodging houses, restaurants and manufacture of aerated waters engaged the largest number, 1,929 or 37·75 per cent, followed at a long distance by *pan-bidi* shops and tailoring establishments. Other occupations which are important as engaging a sizeable number, more than 5 and less than 10 per cent, are in order, cycle repairing shops, sweetmeat and *farsan* shops, hair-cutting saloons and goldsmith shops. While employment of women is insignificant, child employment is the highest in hotels, lodging houses, restaurants and manufacture of aerated waters because of the cheapness of child labour.

BAKERY

Bakeries which were at a discount in the past are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. At the time of the survey there were 34 bakery shops (including manufacturing units) employing 54 persons in the city. The establishments were mainly proprietary concerns and were more or less spread over in different localities. Wheat flour, sugar, *ghee*, baking powder, essence, ammonia powder, colours, edible oils, dry fruits, etc., which are the raw materials required were for the most part purchased locally. The cost of the raw materials varied between Rs. 150 to 300 per month in the case of small units and between Rs. 2,000 to 2,500 for the bigger units. Cost of an oven with accessory equipments such as metal sheets, moulds, vessels, etc., varied from Rs. 500 for the small units to Rs. 1,500 for the larger ones. The units surveyed were housed in rented premises and the rent paid by them varied from Rs. 20 to 50 per month. The capital invested varied from Rs. 600 to 700 in the case of small units and from Rs. 2,000 to 2,500 in the case of bigger ones. Most of the small units were family concerns and did not employ outside labour. The employment provided to outside labourers varied from two to five in case of bigger units. Wages paid to an individual employee varied from Rs. 30 to 80 per month. The products had mainly local markets and were sold either directly to customers and or through hawkers on commission basis. The daily turnover varied from Rs. 25 to 35 in the case of smaller units and from Rs. 100 to 125 in the case of larger ones. It was found that the small sized units earned an estimated net profit of about Rs. 150 per month, while the bigger ones earned about Rs. 500 to 600 per month.

HOTELS, LODGING HOUSES, RESTAURANTS AND MANUFACTURE OF AERATED WATERS

Boarding and Lodging Houses

At the time of survey, there were 16 boarding houses engaging 120 persons and 25 boarding and lodging houses engaging a total of 175 persons of

whom 35 were employers and 140 were employees. Besides these, there were several *vishis* (dining houses). The lodging and boarding houses were not particularly concentrated in any locality of the city. They were organised either on a proprietorship or partnership basis. The total capital invested in the units was about Rs. 1,500 for the *vishis* (dining houses), and about Rs. 25,000 for the bigger units. The establishments surveyed were housed in rented buildings and the rent paid varied from Rs. 5 to 25 per month in case of *vishis* (dining houses) and from Rs. 50 to 250 per month in case of lodging and boarding houses. Many of the *vishis* (dining houses) had secured land on lease from the city municipality and had constructed wooden structures that served as dining places.

Most of these establishments were managed by owners themselves. For supervision bigger establishments, however, engaged paid managers. The number of persons employed varied from 5 to 8 in case of small establishments and from 10 to 15 in case of bigger ones. One big establishment surveyed employed 20 persons. Salaries paid to persons engaged in these establishments were cooks Rs. 35 to 60 per month, servers Rs. 15 to 35 per month and cleaners Rs. 10 to 15 per month. In addition to the salary paid, the employees were also given free meals, and in many cases provided with lodging, etc. The monthly income of the owners of the establishments surveyed varied between Rs. 150 to 400. The owners of the lodging and boarding houses have started an association since 1952 for a speedy solution of their common problems and for the advancement of their business interests.

Hotels and Restaurants

At the time of survey there were in Bhavnagar city 402 units in this occupation engaging a total of 1,534 persons, of whom 357 were employers and the rest were employees. Many units were concentrated on one principal road, viz., the Mahatma Gandhi Road of the city. The total capital invested in each of the units surveyed varied from Rs. 1,000 to 2,000. The principal business of these units was to serve hot and cold drinks and snacks. The number of workers employed varied from 4 to 6 in the case of small units and from 10 to 15 in the case of bigger units. Most of them were paid on a daily basis, the rates varying from Rs. 0.75 to 3.00 besides tea and sometimes snacks. The units were housed in rented premises and the rents paid varied from Rs. 50 to 130 per month, according to space occupied and the location. The estimated monthly net earnings of the units surveyed varied from Rs. 150 to 300 in case of small units and from Rs. 400 to 800 in case of bigger units. The survey had indicated that the owners managed and supervised the daily working of their establishments, accountants being employed by the bigger units only. The owners of these units have formed themselves into an association called the Bhavnagar Hotel Owners' Association since 1953 for the protection and promotion of the interests of its members.

Manufacture of Aerated Waters, etc.

Establishments manufacturing aerated waters such as soda, lemonade, ice-cream, etc., numbered 25 and engaged a total of 100 persons out of which 25 were employers and 75 employees. The units were spread over the city and were organised on proprietorship or partnership basis. The total capital invested in the units surveyed varied from Rs. 1,000 to 4,500 per unit. The number of persons engaged in each of the units varied on an average from 3 to 5 persons, more hands being employed during the peak season. Their daily wages varied from Rs. 1.00 to 3.00. The business is seasonal, slack in winter and rainy seasons and brisk in summer. These establishments did not have an association of their own, but some of them have joined the Bhavnagar Hotel Owners' Association.

SWEETMEAT MAKING

At the time of the survey 183 sweetmeat and *farsan* establishments in the city engaged a total of 408 persons. Of them 181 were employers and the rest were employees. Most of the units did business in both sweetmeats as well as *farsan* or salty preparations, whereas a few in sweets only. Their business is seasonal in character, it being brisk during marriage season, Divali and other holidays and comparatively slack during the rest of the year.

The total capital invested in the units varied from Rs. 300 to 800 in the case of small units, from Rs. 1,000 to 2,500 for medium-sized and from Rs. 3,000 to 8,000 for bigger sized units. The rent paid by the units surveyed, varied from Rs. 20 to 80 a month. The small units generally did business with the help of family members, the medium-sized units employed 2 to 4 labourers, while large units employed hired labour. They were paid both on piece-wage and time-wage basis. Under the piece-wage basis, the amount of work and the type of work done were the determining factors. In case of employment on time-wage basis, wages varied from Rs. 50 to 100 per month.

PAN-BIDI SHOPS

At the time of survey there were 646 *pan-bidi* shops in the city engaging a total of 740 persons. These shops functioned both on the proprietorship and partnership basis. The survey of the shops indicated that many shops kept a few additional items of perfumery, confectionery, cigarettes, etc., also for sale. The total investment of the units surveyed varied from Rs. 500 to 1,500. Many of the units employed labourers for preparing *bidis*. Their number varied from 3 to 5 in the case of small units and from 10 to 15 in the case of bigger ones. They were paid on piece work basis at the rate of Rs. 2.75 for 1,000 *bidis* prepared. The units were housed in rented premises and rents paid varied from Rs. 10 to 30 per month. The estimated monthly net earnings varied from Rs. 100 to 150 in the case of small units and from Rs. 250 to 300 for bigger units.

HAIR-CUTTING

At the time of survey, there were 234 hair-cutting saloons in the city, engaging a total of 310 persons. These establishments were scattered all over the city and were run for the most part on a proprietory basis. The units were housed in rented premises, and the rents paid varied from Rs. 10 to 25 per month. The units employed family members as well as paid workers. The number of workers varied from 2 to 5. They were paid a fixed percentage of daily gross earnings. There was an association of the employers called the Bhavnagar Hair-cutting Saloons Association established in 1940-41.

FLOUR MILLING

There were 145 flour mills in the city in 1962 engaging a total of 178 persons, spread all over the city. A few of these units also followed certain subsidiary occupations such as selling of grains and *atta*, etc. Organised on a proprietorship basis, most of them were one-man establishments. The survey indicated that most of the premises were taken on lease varying from Rs. 40 to 50 per month. Rents paid varied from Rs. 15 to 40 per month. The monthly net earnings of a small sized unit were estimated to vary from Rs. 70 to 100 and for bigger units from Rs. 125 to 200.

GOLDSMITHY

There were 234 establishments of gold and silver smiths in the city at the time of the survey, engaging a total of 258 persons. Different types of gold and silver ornaments were made and repaired in these units. The units were of two types, those making ornaments according to the order of customers and those that made them also for sale. These units were housed usually in rented buildings and rents varied from Rs. 25 to 100 per month. Business was brisk in winter and summer especially in the marriage season. There were two associations in the city, viz., the Bhavnagar Shrimali Soni Association and the Choksi Mandal established to safeguard the interests of their members. On account of the promulgation of Gold Control Order in the year 1963 the business of many goldsmiths is reported to have been adversely affected.

LAUNDERING

There were two different types of washermen, viz., one having fixed establishments of their own in the city and the other without such establishments. The latter go to the customers' residence for taking their clothes for washing and deliver them after washing. At the time of survey there were 110 establishments of the second type in the city engaging a total of 169 persons. The units were scattered all over the city and most of them were run on a proprietorship basis. In many units, washing was entrusted to individual washermen who were paid on a piece-wage system. The clothes after being washed are taken back to the laundries where they are ironed and wrapped for delivery

to the customers. The units surveyed were housed in rented premises and the rent paid varied from Rs. 15 to 75 per month. The survey indicated that the monthly net earnings of the small units were estimated to vary from Rs. 60 to 100 and for the larger units it was about Rs. 300. Most of the units were run with the help of family members. Only 4 to 5 units employed outside labourers. The units had no association of their own.

Cycle Repairing

The survey disclosed 262 units in the city engaged in cycle repairing and employing 410 persons. Most of them were small sized units, run with the help of family members or with the assistance of 2 to 3 outside workers. The wages of these workers varied from Rs. 30 to 60 per month. Most of the units have come into existence in recent times on account of the increasing use of cycles which at the time of survey numbered about 20,000 in the city alone. The business done by most of the units includes both hiring and repairing of bicycles in addition to the repair of petromax and stove. Small units kept 6 to 10 bicycles, but the larger ones had 30 to 40. The total capital invested in the units varied from Rs. 300 to 800 in the case of smaller units and from Rs. 5,000 to 10,000 in the case of bigger units. The establishments which dealt in the sale of bicycles invested still larger amounts. The estimated monthly net earnings varied from Rs. 90 to 150 for small units and from Rs. 300 to 450 for the bigger ones. The units surveyed were located in rented premises and the rent paid by them varied from Rs. 15 to 60 a month. There was an association of the sellers of bicycles, viz., the Bhavnagar Cycle Merchants' Association which was first established in 1957.

Tailoring

There were 515 tailoring establishments engaging a total of 654 persons. A large number of these establishments was one-man establishments, where cutting, stiching and sewing work was done mainly by the male members who ran such establishments. Female members of the household helped in fixing buttons, etc. Many establishments worked with the help of one or two relatives, while larger concerns employed about 6 to 8 persons. Both time and piece-work systems of wages prevailed in this business. In the time-wage system the monthly wages varied between Rs. 35 to 90 depending upon the skill and efficiency of the worker and in piece-wage system the wage was between 50 to 60 per cent of the amount charged. The occupation provided whole-time employment throughout the year. Many of the tailoring firms were housed in rented premises. The monthly rent usually varied in the case of small establishments from Rs. 8 to 16 and in the case of large establishments from Rs. 17 to 33. But some of the larger ones situated in the busy and important localities of the city paid rent even up to Rs. 50 to 60 a month.

STATEMENT VIII·2

Number of Persons Engaged in Selected Occupations, 1961

Sl. No	Occupation	Total Persons	Total Males	Total Females	Urban Persons	Urban Males	Urban Females	Rural Persons	Rural Males	Rural Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists ..	513	482	31	341	312	29	172	170	2
2	Nurses, Pharmacists and other Medical and Health Technicians ..	651	441	210	470	338	141	172	103	69
3	Teachers	4,432	3,159	1,273	2,414	1,462	952	2,018	1,697	321
	(a) Teachers, University	122	112	10	119	109	10	3	3	—
	(b) Teachers, Secondary Schools ..	746	586	160	538	412	126	208	174	34
	(c) Teachers, Middle and Primary Schools ..	3,356	2,353	1,003	1,599	857	742	1,757	1,496	261
	(d) Teachers, (others) ..	206	108	100	158	84	74	50	24	26
4	Jurists	179	177	2	174	172	2	5	5	..
5	Arts, Letters and Science	3,927	3,585	342	2,013	1,755	258	1,014	1,830	84
	(a) Architects, Engineers, Surveyors ...	211	211	..	180	180	—	31	31	..
	(b) Biologists, Veterinarians, Agronomists and Related Scientists ...	24	24	..	9	9	—	15	15	—
	(c) Social Scientists and Related Workers ..	224	207	17	144	134	10	80	73	7
	(d) Artists, Writers and Related Workers ..	643	594	49	225	222	3	418	372	46
	(e) Draftsmen and Science and Engineering Technicians, n. e. c.	70	68	2	69	67	2	1	1	—
	(f) Other Professional, Technical and Related Workers (including Ordained and Non-ordained Religious Workers; Astrologers, Palmists and Related Workers, etc.) ...	2,755	2,481	274	1,386	1,143	243	1,369	1,338	31

n. e. c.=not elsewhere classified

Source :

District Census Handobook 1961, Bhavnagar

STATEMENT VIII·2—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Occupation	Total			Urban			Rural		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6	Administrative and Executive Government Officials	1,332	1,309	23	351	345	6	981	964	17
7	Hawkers, Pedlars and Street Vendors ..	1,813	1,671	142	1,633	1,513	120	180	158	22
8	Tailors, Cutters, Furriers and Related Workers	4,801	3,925	876	2,263	1,869	394	2,538	2,056	482
9	Jewellers, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths ..	1,440	1,435	5	845	845	..	595	590	5
10	Dairy Workers (Non-farm)	1,490	662	828	32	23	9	1,458	639	819
11	Bakers, Confectioners, Candy and Sweetmeats makers, Brewmasters and other Related Beverage Workers ..	478	437	41	425	400	25	53	37	16
12	Housekeepers, Cooks, Maids and Related Workers ..	2,050	703	1,347	1,746	499	1,247	304	204	100
13	Barbers, Hairdressers, Beauticians and Related Workers ..	2,352	2,349	3	722	722	..	1,630	1,627	3
14	Launders, Dry Cleaners and Pressers ..	723	504	219	637	451	186	86	53	33

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

Income or economic independence had been adopted as the criterion for determining the livelihood pattern and measuring the economy of the country during the past censuses. But the 1961 Census has made a significant departure from this traditional approach by emphasizing work done or the economic activity performed by an individual rather than his earnings. Accordingly, the general population of the district of Bhavnagar, has been divided into two categories for economic purposes, viz., workers and non-workers. Out of a total population of 1,119,435 persons in the district, the 1961 Census has returned 434,721 workers and 684,714 non-workers in the ratio of 38.83 to 61.17. The corresponding ratio for Gujarat State is 41·07 to 58.93. These figures show a slight increase in the proportion of non-workers in this district as compared to the State figures. The workers on the basis of economic activity pursued classified into nine industrial categories are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·1

Category of Workers, 1961

Sl. No.	Category of Workers	Working population			Percentage to total
		Males	Females	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	As cultivator	130,624	73,230	203,854	46.89
2	As agricultural labourer	35,319	28,167	63,486	14·60
3	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchards, and allied activities	4,115	1,375	5,490	1.26
4	At household industry	26,184	11,971	38,155	8.78
5	In manufacturing other than household industry	23,377	2,084	25,461	5.86
6	In construction	4,435	1,030	5,465	1.26
7	In trade and commerce	24,798	924	25,722	5.92
8	In transport, storage and communications	11,509	174	11,683	2.69
9	In other services	41,987	13,418	55,405	12.74
	Total	*302,348*	*132,373*	*434,721*	*100.00*
	Non-workers	275,381	409,333	684,714	..
	Grand Total	577,729	541.706	1,119,435	..

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

From the above statement it is observed that of the total working population, 61.49 per cent are engaged in agricultural pursuits (cultivation 46.89 per cent, and agricultural labour 14.60 per cent making a total of 61.49 per cent). The striking feature of the economy obtaining in the district is the predominance of agriculture. Non-agricultural pursuits claim 12.74 per cent in other services, 8.78 per cent in household industry, 5.86 per cent in manufacturing industry, 5.92 per cent in trade and commerce, 2.69 per cent in transport, storage and communications and 1.26 per cent each in mining, quarrying, etc., and in construction.

Household and Non-household Workers

Workers engaged in non-agricultural activities mentioned in items 3 to 9 in the above statement were in the 1961 Census, grouped under two broad heads, viz., those engaged (a) at household industry and (b) in non-household industry, which comprised items 3 and 5 to 9 in the above statement.

Household industry may be considered as an industry, which is not run on a scale of a registered factory and conducted by the head of the household himself and/or mainly members of the household at home or within the village in rural areas and only at home in urban areas, the need for having employees working for salary or wages being negligible. Out of a total of 434,721 workers in the district, 38,155 worked in household industry and 129,226 were engaged in non-household industries.

The workers engaged in household industry were classified into (a) employees and (b) others, particulars of which are shown in the statement given below.

STATEMENT IX-2

Category of Workers Engaged in Household Industry, 1961

	Total workers	Percentage of total	Employees	Percentage of total	Others	Percentage of total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total ..	**38,155**	**100.00**	**1,640**	**4.30**	**36,515**	**95.70**
Rural ..	32,217	—	1,395	—	30,822	—
Urban —	5,938	—	245	—	5,693	—

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

Out of a total of 38,155 persons engaged in household industry in the district, only 1,640 persons constituting 4.30 per cent of such workers were employees, while 36,515 or 95.70 per cent were employed as 'others'. The comparative absence of hired labour and predominance of self-employed

persons and family members in household industries are apparent from these figures.

Another important aspect of household industry is the period for which it gives employment to those working on household basis as revealed by the statement that follows.

STATEMENT IX·3

Principal Household Industry Classified by Period of Working and Total Number of Workers Engaged in Household Industry, 1961

(Based on 20 per cent Sample)

	Family workers			For 1 to 3 months			
Number of households	Males	Females	Hired workers	Number of households	Family workers Males	Family workers Females	Hired workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4,414	7,359	3,233	202	41	47	21	..

For 4 to 6 months				For 7 to 9 months			
Number of households	Family workers Males	Family workers Females	Hired workers	Number of households	Family workers Males	Family workers Females	Hired workers
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
264	367	179	20	373	618	345	11

For 10 months to 1 year				For unspecified periods			
Number of households	Family workers Males	Family workers Females	Hired workers	Number of households	Family workers Males	Family workers Females	Hired workers
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
3,615	6,137	2,627	167	121	181	61	4

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

These figures furnish an important clue to the seasonality of household industries and indicate that out of the total sample households the largest percentage, i.e., 81·90 per cent work for a period of 10 months to 1 year whereas only 8.45 per cent work for 7 to 9 months, 5.98 per cent work for 4 to 6 months and only 0.93 per cent work for 1 to 3 months. The remaining 2.74 per cent work for an unspecified period. It is significant to note that the number of family workers goes on increasing with every increase in the period of working.

Persons at work in non-household industries were classified by the 1961 Census into (a) employers, (b) employees, (c) single workers, and (d) family workers. details of which are given below.

STATEMENT IX.4

Categories of Persons at Work in Non-household Industries, 1961

	Number				Employers			
	Males 1	Females 2	Total 3	Percentage of total 4	Males 5	Females 6	Total 7	Percentage of total 8
Total ..	**110,221**	**19,005**	**129,226**	**100.00**	**11,986**	**625**	**12,611**	**9.76**
Rural ..	38,111	10,019	48,130		4,372	514	4,886	
Urban ..	72,110	8,986	81,096		7,614	111	7,725	

	Employees				Single workers			
	Males 9	Females 10	Total 11	Percentage of total 12	Males 13	Females 14	Total 15	Percentage of total 16
Total ..	**50,002**	**5,475**	**55,477**	**42.93**	**37,166**	**11,760**	**48.926**	**38.63**
Rural .	11,554	1,406	12,960		17,944	7,402	25,346	
Urban .	38,448	4,069	42,517		19,222	4,358	23,580	

	Family workers			
	Males 17	Females 18	Total 19	Percentage of total 20
Total ..	**11.067**	**1,145**	**12,212**	**8.68**
Rural ..	4,241	697	4,938	
Urban .	6,826	448	7.274	

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

This statement indicates that in the non-household industries 42.93 per cent of workers were employees, as against 9·76 per cent working as employers. Single workers accounted for 38·63 per cent of the total workers, while family workers constituted only 8·68 per cent. The number of female workers was very much less than the number of male workers employed in each category of workers. Unlike household industry, the proportionate employment of female workers as compared to male was very much less in the urban areas than in the rural.

In view of the importance of agriculture in the productive activities of the State, economic data for the district, on the basis of households engaged

(a) neither in cultivation nor household industry, (b) in household industry only, (c) both in household industry and cultivation and (d) cultivation only, are examined below.

STATEMENT IX·5

Sample Households Engaged in Different Activities, 1961

(BASED ON 20 PER CENT SAMPLE)

	Total number of households	Households engaged neither in cultivation nor household industry	Households engaged in household industry only	Households engaged both in household industry and cultivation	Households engaged in cultivation only
	1	2	3	4	5
Total ..	**39,321**	**21,597**	**3.139**	**1,275**	**13,310**
Rural ..	26,242	9,899	2,628	1,221	12,494
Urban ..	13,079	11,698	511	54	816

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar.

Excluding cultivation which dominates the economic structure in the district, it can be seen that the proportionate number of households engaged neither in cultivation nor household industry was very much larger in the urban areas of the district than in the rural. Proportionately more households were engaged both in household industry and cultivation in the rural areas than was the case in urban areas owing to the tendency in villages to couple some household industry with cultivation where cultivation is uneconomic as also to resort to cultivation where household industry cannot afford work all the year round to some of the traditional village artisans.

PRINCIPAL AND SECONDARY WORK

In the working population there are a few persons who are engaged in more than one productive activity, one being principal and the other secondary.

The following statement indicates the number of persons doing secondary work besides agriculture and household industry as principal work.

A. Persons working principally as cultivators and doing secondary work :

(i) at household industries	..	..	..	4,158
(ii) as agricultural labourers	..	..	..	5,000

B. Persons working principally as agricultural labourers and doing secondary work :

(i) at household industries	..	..	..	657
(ii) as cultivators	..	..	..	1,013

C. Persons working principally at household industry and doing secondary work as :

(i) cultivators	..	..	..	1,793
(ii) agricultural labourers	..	..	..	1,426

STATEMENT IX-6

Classification of Workers Engaged in Agriculture and Household Industry by Sex

Principal work		Secondary work: I-As household industry		II-As cultivators		III-As agricultural labourers	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
Cultivator ..	Total	2,662	1,496	..	--	2,957	2,043
	Rural	2,552	1,435	..	..	2,906	1,981
	Urban	110	61	--	--	51	62
Agricultural labourer ..	Total	362	295	586	437	--	--
	Rural	357	295	564	423	--	--
	Urban	5	--	22	14	--	--
Household industry ..	Total	--	...	1,068	725	866	561
	Rural	..	...	962	659	820	498
	Urban	...	..	106	66	46	63

Persons working in non-houschold industry, trade, business profession or service who did additional work in household industry are: 433. They may be classified as follows :

			Total	Males	Females
Total	..	--	.. 433	329	104
Rural	...	...	... 249	172	77
Urban	--	--	.. 184	157	27

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

The above statements indicate that out of a total of 203,854 persons engaged as cultivators, 9,158 (4.39 per cent) sought employment in some secondary work. And of the latter, 5,000 (2.45 per cent) worked as agricultural labourers, and 4,158 (1.94 per cent) were engaged in household industry.

Among agricultural labourers, the tendency to resort to secondary work was comparatively less pronounced than was the case with those engaged as cultivators, for, out of a total of 63,486 persons engaged principally as agricultural labourers, 1,670 (2.63 per cent) did some secondary work, 1,013 (1.59 per cent) as cultivators and 657 (1.04 per cent) ni household industry.

Out of a total of 38,155 persons engaged in household industry, 3,219 (8.44 per cent) did secondary work in agricultural activities, 1,793 (4.70 per cent) as cultivators, and 1,426 (3.74 per cent) as agricultural labourers.

Very few persons engaged in non-household industry, trade business, profession or service resorted to household industry for secondary work.

NON-WORKERS

Non-workers in the district accounted for 684,714 persons, (275,381 males and 409,333 females) in 1961. They were grouped in 8 broad categories in the 1961 Census. Their distribution by sex in the different categories was as follows.

STATEMENT IX·7

Persons not at Work Classified by Sex and Type of Activity, 1961

Sl. No.	Category of non-workers	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Percentage	
			Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5
1	Full-time students ...	T	29.64	8.4
		R	23.16	4.54
		U	41.15	14.89
2	Household duties ...	T	0.35	44.67
		R	0.37	41.39
		U	0.32	50.12
3	Dependents, infants and disabled	T	65.65	45.25
		R	73.37	52.17
		U	51·92	33.75
4	Retired, rentiers, etc.	T	2.34	1.50
		R	1.89	1.77
		U	3.30	1.05
5	Beggars, vagrants ...	T	0.76	0.11
		R	0.84	0.11
		U	0.62	0.11
6	Inmates of penal, mental and charitable institutions	T	0.12	0.03
		R	0.04	0.01
		U	0.27	0.05
7	Persons seeking employment for the first time	T	0.47	N
		R	0.19	N
		U	0.97	0.01
8	Employed before but now seeking work	T	0.67	0.01
		R	0.23	0.01
		U	1.45	0.02

N=Negligible

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar

The above statement gives interesting information about non-workers. The percentage distribution of non-workers in the various activities given above for males and females shows great dissimilarity. Among the males 'Full-time students', and 'Dependents, infants and disabled' constituting 29.64 per cent and 65.65 per cent respectively together account for 95.29 per cent, as against 53.68 per cent, (i.e., 8.43 per cent and 45.25 per cent respectively) among females. In 'Household duties' males account for 0.35 per cent whereas females for 44.67 per cent. The percentage of females engaged in household duties was higher in urban areas than in the rural areas, as womenfolk in rural areas, in addition to their household duties, also participate in agriculture and household industry. The percentage of 'Full-time students' was higher among males than among females. The higher percentage of 'Full-time students' in urban areas as compared to the rural areas, may be explained by the greater consciousness and opportunities the townspeople have in the matter of education. The percentage of unemployed persons seeking employment was very small for males, and practically nil for females.

PRICES

A study of the general level of prices is very useful in understanding the economic condition of the people. For, after all, it is not the money income but purchases therefrom that matter so much. Prices always play an indispensable and influential role in the economic system of a region. It is through them that changes in the economic system are reflected. Their role is not merely passive, i.e., that of an index, but also active, viz., that of causing changes in the level of economic activity by which all sections of society are affected. In order to have an idea of the trend of prices at different periods of time, prices ruling the market in Bhavnagar city will be discussed below, as they can be taken to be fairly representative of the conditions prevalent in the district.

1782-1882

The Kathiawar Gazetteer describes the prices of foodgrains in Bhavnagar, during the period 1782 to 1882 in the following terms.

" In the case of millet for which the details are most complete, during the last hundred years there have been two years of unusually low prices. In 1789 as much as 126 pounds could be bought for one rupee. Millet has never again been so cheap as this. The next cheapest year was 1797 when millet sold at 101 pounds the rupee. Then comes 97 pounds in 1786, 90 in 1844, 84 in 1796, 80 pounds in 1799, 78 pounds in 1849, 73 pounds in 1843, 67 pounds in 1827, 1829 and 1832, 66 pounds in 1833 and 62 pounds in 1831. On the other hand there have been years of scarcity in which the rupee could not buy more than twenty pounds of millet. These years were, in 1864 and in 1813, 14 pounds; in 1865, 15 pounds; in 1791, 17 pounds;

in 1866, 1879, and 1825, 20 pounds; in 1870 and 1878, 21 pounds. The years 1791 and 1813 were years of famine, and 1820, 1878 and 1879 were years of scarcity. The unparalled dearness of foodgrains, in 1864 and 1865 was chiefly due to the abundance of money which followed the high price of cotton during the American War. The average price of millet during the ten years ending 1882 is twelve pounds the rupee higher than it was during the first ten years of the century. At the same time, compared with the relative abundance of money, which during the early part of the century was extremely scarce, grain is probably cheaper now than it was then. Between these periods, the price of millet has passed through great fluctuations. In 1844 the rupee could purchase 90 pounds of millet, whereas in 1801 only 49 pounds and in 1882, only 28 pounds were obtainable. It will be noticed that the price of foodgrains has never returned to its low average during the twenty years before the American War (1843-1863). It is almost certain that foodgrains will never again be so cheap owing to the steady and growing demand for cotton and wheat which reduces the area of land under millet and Indian millet. The levelling influence of railways also tends to prevent a glut of grain and consequent exceptional cheapness.

Excluding the famine years of 1813 and 1820 the first twenty-five years of the century appear to have been years of average prices, the lowest rupee price being 55 pounds in 1818, the highest 25 pounds in 1814 and the average 39 pounds. 1825 was a year of scarcity which affected prices in 1826. From 1827 to 1832 was a period of cheap grain, the average rupee price being 57¼ pounds. This was followed by six years of high prices the rupee price averaging 32½ pounds. The forty-two years since 1838 may be divided into two nearly equal periods, separated by the years of the Amrerican War (1863-1865). The first of these periods was a time of low prices and the second, which still continues, has been a time of high prices. Treating 1864 and 1865 as exceptional; during the past twenty-two years the rupee prices of millet has ranged from 36 pounds in the cheapest to 20 pounds in the dearest year and has averaged 27 pounds, nearly double the average price during the previous twenty years.

As has been shown above this rise in the price of grain has been accompanied by a nearly proportionate rise in the money wages of unskilled and of most branches of skilled labour. The poorer classes have not suffered, while the bulk of the people who own or who rent land have had the weight of their cash payments considerably lightened."[1]

1882-1914

Prices of foodgrains during the period 1882 to 1901 continued to show a general upward rise, and wheat that was sold at 24 seers a rupee in

1 *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. VIII, *Kathiawar*, 1884. pp. 216-217

1882 was sold at 19¾ seers a rupee in 1901-02. The main causes for this upward trend in prices of foodgrains during the last two decades of the 19th century were.

(1) Frequent interludes of famines, and irregularity of the monsoon that adversely affected the production of food crops.

(2) Growth in population causing greater demand for food without a proportionate increase in the production of food crops.

(3) Increase in transport facilities especially the railways which prevented over accumulation of foodgrains in any one place and helped in finding new markets.

Prices of foodgrains between 1905-06 and 1913-14 (period preceding the First World War) showed only small fluctuations and they were on the whole steady within limits. But "the policy of the Darbar to generously permit the ryots to retain as much of the produce of their fields as may reasonably be requisite for the actual consumption of themselves, their family and cattle, left them in a great measure unaffected by these fluctuations of prices and enabled them to tide over lean year with ease and confidence."[1]

1914-1925

The First World War (1914-18) had a profound impact on the prices of commodities and they began to manifest a steep upward trend during this period, as revealed by the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·8

Prices of Important Foodgrains, 1914-15 to 1918-19

(SEERS FOR ONE RUPEE)

Name of the commodity	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19
1	2	3	4	5	6
Wheat	15¾	16½	8¾	8-1/5	7⅜
Bajri	16¼	18	9½	8½	7-4/5
Jowar	24	23½	12¾	12¼	9⅜
Rice	10-2/5	12½	12-1/5	5¼	6⅜

Source : *Administration Reports of Bhavnagar State*

The average prices of foodgrains in 1916-17 were nearly double than those of the previous year and rose further in 1918-19 by 7.6 per cent. This abnormal rise in prices was mainly due to the following causes.

(1) the war had necessitated a greater allocation of goods to defence

1 *Administration Report of Bhavnagar State*, 1905-06

and war purposes rather than for consumption (2) increase in the circulation of money, on account of increased government expenditure (without a corresponding increase in consumer goods), (3) uncertainties due to the war, creating a tendency of hoarding among the public and (4) general rise in world prices. The rise in prices affected adversely persons of fixed incomes especially the poor and the middle classes whose source of income was rather inelastic. After the First World War the prices of foodgrains began to ease and up to 1925 they were within limits, steady. This period on the whole, was one of prosperity.

1926-1932

Prices of foodgrains began to show a decline from 1926-27. The Great Depression of 1929 resulted in a very rapid fall in prices in the district, as will be seen from the statement that follows.

Year	Percentage decrease in prices over the preceding year
1926-27	28
1927-28	10
1928-29	3
1929-30	30

1932-1946

Fall in prices and the Great Depression caused much misery to the people especially the agriculturist classes. Industrial activity slowed down. The worst effects of the Depression began to lessen by 1931-32, when the prices again began to show signs of recovery and between 1935 and 1938 they remained almost steady. The Second World War (1939-45), however, led to a steep rise in prices as seen from the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·9

Prices of Important Foodgrains, 1939-40 to 1943-44

(SEERS FOR ONE RUPEE)

Name of the commodity	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
1	2	3	4	5	6
Wheat	17½	15-4/5	12-2/5	9½	5¾
Bajri	19¾	19¼	17-1/5	14½	11¼
Jowar	22	22-1/5	18	16	12½
Rice	19-4/5	16	10½	6¼	5-1/5

Source :

Administration Reports of Bhavnagar State, 1939-40 to 1943-44

The tempo of increased industrial activity, scarcity of consumer goods, increase in public demand due to increase in income, inflation and above all the activities of speculators, hoarders and profiteers made the shortage of goods still more acute and raised the prices further. This abnormal rise in prices caused much misery to the people of the district. The middle classes, the salaried sections in particular, were the hardest hit. The agriculturists in general gained somewhat, but their prosperity was more apparent than real.

Various control measures to restrict prices and regulate distribution of essential commodities introduced by the Government of India were also enforced by Indian States on a uniform basis. These were, (i) Ordinances prohibiting issues of capital, and floatation of new companies without special sanction, (ii) "Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Forward Contract Prohibition) Order", (iii) "Groundnut (Forward Contract Prohibition) Order," (iv) prohibition of forward contracts and options in bullion......, (v) levy of war profits tax in the State, with a view to drawing off the surplus money from the market, (vi) "Cloth Control Order" and (vii) The "Anti-Hoarding Profiteering Ordinance."

"The Department of Civil Supplies of the Bhavnagar State was considerably expanded, and rationing on individual card basis was introduced in Bhavnagar city and extended to three taluka towns of Mahuva, Kundla and Botad with a view to ensure fairer distribution of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene and cloth.' [1]

1947 AND AFTER

The upward trend in prices continued even after the Second World War. After the Independence of the country on 15th August, 1947, the problems arising from the partition of the country, irregular rainfall and consequent shortfalls in the production of foodgrains, boom conditions created by the Korean War (1950 onwards), increased outlay and taxation consequent to the developmental activities initiated by the government during the successive Five Year Plans, increase in money supply, increase in population, speculative hoarding of stocks to boost prices, and the general rise in the level of world prices led to a spiral of soaring prices in the country, State and the district from 1947 onwards.

A statement showing the wholesale prices of important agricultural commodities ruling the market at Bhavnagar, Kundla and Mahuva in the district for the years 1958 to 1965 for which information is available is given in Statement IX.10 at the end of the Chapter.

Considering the prices of foodgrains prevailing in 1943-44 in Bhavnagar, and the prices prevailing in 1958 it can be seen that the prices of foodgrains showed an all round increase between 1943-44 and 1958. The percentage increase in the price of *bajri* as compared to the rise in prices of other foodgrains was, however, greater. The rising trend in prices persisted

1. *Administration Report of the Bhavnagar State* 1944-45, p. 7

between 1958 and 1965 and it was quite pronounced during 1964 and 1965. The average level of prices of foodgrains in the city of Bhavnagar was higher than the price levels of smaller towns like Kundla and Mahuva. In rice, the price of the fine variety exhibited a greater variation than was the case with the other two varieties during this period. The price of wheat did not fluctuate much till 1961, but thereafter an upward trend was noticed. Prices of *jowar* and *bajri* also fluctuated during this period. Among the pulses, the prices of gram *dal* and *mug* were, within limits, fairly steady, while the price of *udid* showed comparatively greater variations.

WAGES

'Wages' mean all remunerations capable of being expressed in terms of money, paid to a person as a payment for labour done. A study of the general level of wages throws much light on the economic condition of the people. Wages paid during the latter part of 18th century and 19th century (up to 1882) in the peninsula of Kathiawar, which should apply equally well to Bhavnagar, have been reviewed in the Kathiawar Gazetteer in the following terms.

" The wages earned by field-labourers depend on the time of the year and the character of labour. Field labour is usually paid in kind. For clearing and weeding, men receive three pounds (three *sers*) and women two pounds (two *sers*) of grain a day. Labourers employed in harvesting are paid in kind at the rate of one-twentieth to one-sixteenth of the amount collected. This share is termed the *mul* or original wage. In addition to it the midday meal is provided by the employer.

The cotton picker receives one-sixteenth to one-twentieth of the first picking which is termed *dungra*, literally a heap or share, one-twelfth of the second gathering and one-fifth or one-sixth of the third and last picking which is called *jhunjha* or last, a word which is also used for the last child of a family. After the last picking the villagers are allowed to glean the remainder. This gleaning is called *salo* and it is permitted also in grain fields after the crops are carried. In sugarcane and other irrigated fields the workmen are paid in cash from £ 3 12s. to £ 4 16s. (Rs. 36-Rs. 48) a year and food and clothing in addition. If they are engaged for a shorter term they are paid 8s. (Rs. 4) a month besides food, but without clothing. Three workmen are required in a sugar-cane field, the *panetia* or waterer who guides the water into the furrows, the *kosai* or water-bagman who drives the bullocks which raise the water, and the *bhuria* whose duty is to cut the cane when ripe. The working hours are from six in the morning to six at night with an interval from twelve to two for food and rest. Field-workers who are not engaged by the year, find employment in ploughing, cleaning, weeding and picking. This employment lasts for about nine months. It is calculated that the wages which they earn during this time are sufficient to provide them

with the necessaries of life during the whole year. At harvest time the workers are paid far higher wages than any other employer of labour can afford to give. Miscellaneous labourers chiefly belong to four castes, Bhois or litter-bearers, Ghandaria or coir-rope makers, Kolis, and Khavas the offspring of the female servants of chiefs and landlords. These are paid in cash, the daily wages of a man being 3d. to 4½ d. (2-3 *annas*) and of a woman 2¼d. to 3d. (1½-2 *annas*). In mills and cotton presses the wages even of unskilled labour are higher, a man receiving 3¾d. to 5¼d. (2½-3½*annas*) and a woman 3d. (2 *annas*) a day. Some forms of unskilled labour are paid by the amount of work done. Women who are usually employed to separate the cotton from the pod can clean forty pounds (1 *man*) of cotton in a day and for this they receive 3d. (2 *annas*) and the pods as fuel. One man can unhusk 750 cocoanuts in a day, for which he is paid at the rate of 2s. (Re. 1) the thousand. During the cotton season trained workmen in steam presses and ginning factories earn 7½d. (5 *annas*) and at screw presses as much as 2s. (Re. 1) a day.

Masons usually belong to the following castes, Kanbis, Kachhia, Rajputs, Khavas, Jogis, Ravalias, and Muhammadans. Their wages vary according to their skill. The best hands earn as much as £ 1 12s. (Rs. 16) a month, an average mason makes about £ 1 5s. (Rs. 12½), and an inexperienced workman not more than 14s. (Rs. 7). An average carpenter makes 15s. to £1 5s. (Rs. 7½-Rs. 12½) a month, while a skilful workman may command as much as £ 1 10s. (Rs. 15). Suthars have not the monopoly of carpentering. Kumbhars, Lohars and Darjis freely compete with them. Blacksmiths are usually employed by large establishments who pay them £ 1 10s. to £ 2 (Rs. 15-Rs. 20) a month. A few work on their own account making betel-nut-scissors and native cooking vessels. Stone-cutters belong to any caste. They make £1 18s. to £ 2 (Rs. 19-Rs. 20) or even as much as £ 2 4s. (Rs. 22) a month. The class of stone-cutters called Sompara Salats are considered specially good workmen and earn as much as £ 2 10s. (Rs. 25) a month. Except among Lohars or blacksmiths whose sons blow the bellows, the women and children of skilled craftsmen do not help the men. These different classes of skilled labourers are mostly Hindus......They begin work at seven in the morning and go on till six in the evening with an interval for dinner and rest between twelve and two. They are paid in cash. The wages of skilled labour have risen considerably within the last twenty years : those of carpenters from 6d. (4 *annas*) in 1860 to 1s. (8 *annas*) in 1881; of bricklayers, smiths, tailors, and shoemakers from 6d. (4 *annas*) in 1860 to 9d. (6 *annas*) in 188˙; of masons and sawyers from 7½d. (5 *annas*) in 1860 to 1s. (8 *annas*) in 1881. During the same time the wages of unskilled labour have risen from 3d. (2 *annas*) to 4½d. (3 *annas*)." [1]

1. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. VIII, *Kathiawar*, 1884, pp. 214-216

1882–1914

The wages after 1882 showed an upward trend. In the beginning of the twentieth century during 1903-04, in the Bhavnagar State, the average wage rate for skilled labour varied from 7 annas to Re. 1, and for unskilled labour from 3 annas to 5 annas. Up to 1914 (i.e., prior to the beginning of the First World War) wages of skilled and unskilled workers fluctuated within narrow limits, and were on the whole steady. The rate of wages of a field-labourer, however, at the harvest time, for about 3 to 4 months, was somewhat higher than at any other time during the year.

1914–1924

The First World War (1914-18) had a profound impact upon the economy of the country, and this in turn affected the economy of the district. Rise in prices of foodgrains and increased industrial activity due to war requirements were important factors in the increase of wages of labour during the period. Increase in wages of the artisan class was 18 per cent over the wages of the previous year (1916-17) and 22 per cent over the wages in 1918-19. Due to a rise of wages, the labour classes were " better off than other classes."[1]

1924–1932

Even after the war was over in 1918, wages continued to rise till 1922-23. This may be ascribed to a greater demand for consumer goods immediately after the war that necessiated a greater demand of labour for producing such goods.

The trend of rising wages was reversed from 1923-24 onwards, when wages began to fall. The fall in the wages of unskilled labourers was greater than the fall in the wages of skilled workers. At first the fall in the wages of skilled and unskilled workers, though progressive, was not very great. But the Great Depression (1929) adversely affected the wage level of workers, and wages began to fall rapidly due to fall in prices of foodgrains and a slowing down of the economic activity. By about 1932 the worst effects of the Depression were over, and thereafter due to increased economic activity wages began to show signs of recovery and revival.

1932 AND AFTER

The Second World War (1939-45) pushed the wage-level of workers up. This upward trend in wages has continued even after the Second World War and been accentuated still further after Independence due to the operation of causes responsible for a rise in prices already noticed earlier.

1. *Administration Report of Bhavnagar State*, 1918-19

During the beginning of nineteen fifties daily farm wage rates in the (Gohilwad) district were as follows.

Class of workers	Daily wages in the (Gohilwad) district Rs.	As.	Ps.[1]
Male	0	13	1
Female	0	11	8
Children	0	8	0
Average daily wage for the district	0	12	2

Source :

VAKIL AND LAKDAWALA, *Economic Survey of Saurashtra*, 1953

1960-61

After the integration of Saurashtra State with the Bombay State on 1st November, 1956, agricultural labour was classified according to the Manual of Revenue Accounts, under three categories, viz., "(*a*) skilled, (*b*) ordinary and (*c*) field labour. Skilled labour comprises carpenters, blacksmiths and cobblers. Ordinary labour consists of load carrying coolies, well diggers, masons or carpenter's assistants, earth workers, etc., while field labour comprises ploughmen, sowers, reapers, harvesters, weeders, transplanters, etc. In addition to the above three categories one more category was added, viz., herdsmen whose main work is to collect livestock from different owners and to feed them in the jungle during the day and to bring them back in the evening to the owners' places."[2] Average daily wages for these categories of workers during 1960-61 (July to June, for which figures are available) after the formation of Gujarat State on 1st May 1960, for the district were as follows.

STATEMENT IX-11

Average Daily Wages Paid to Agricultural and Skilled Labour, 1960-61

Sl. No. 1	Type of labour 2	(IN RUPEES) Average daily wages 3
1	Skilled labour	
	(a) Carpenters	5.25
	(b) Blacksmiths	4.95
	(c) Cobblers	4.33
2	Field labour	2.32
3	Other agricultural labour	2·19
4	Herdsmen	N. A.

N. A. = Not available

Source :

Season and Crop Report, Gujarat State, 1960-61

1. The former currency was in rupees, annas and pies; 12 pies made an anna which was 1/16th of a rupee. The present decimal currency is in Rupees and Paise. 6 Paise are equivalent to an anna of the old currency.
2. *Season and Crop Report, Gujarat State*, p. 26, 1960-61

It is not possible to exactly compare the average daily wages of different categories of workers in the district, as prevalent in 1960-61 with those prevailing in the beginning of nineteen fifties, on account of the difference in system of classification of workers, and variations in the areas of the district. Nevertheless wage figures of these two periods indicate that there was an all round increase in the wage level during this period. Rise in wages being closely interlinked with the general increase in the price level of commodities reflected as well an increased economic activity during the successive Five Year Plans.

Average daily wages of different categories of workers for certain selected places of Bhavnagar district for certain selected months (as available) are given in Statement IX·12 at the end of the Chapter. This statement brings out certain broad characteristics of the wage structure. The average daily wages of skilled labour were higher than those of other categories of workers. Among the skilled labour, carpenters earned a higher average daily wage than blacksmiths and cobblers. Further, wages of skilled labour, on the whole, showed lesser fluctuations during the period, than was the case in wages of 'Field labour' and 'Other agricultural labour'. Among men workers engaged in 'Field labour' and 'Other agricultural labour' a dissimilarity in the proportion of wages earned in these two categories was noticed from area to area. For example, in certain places like Bhavnagar, Gogha and Botad the relative wages in 'Other agricultural labour' were rather lower than those wages in 'field labour', but in Mahuva it was the reverse. A general high level of wages in these years, reflects the rise in prices of commodities and the effects of inflationary pressure, generated due to increased defence and industrial activities in the country.

MINIMUM WAGES

Government of Saurashtra appointed committees to implement the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and to recommend minimum wages for the following industries : (1) Rice, flour and *dal* mills ; (2) tobacco-manufacturing and *bidi*-making ; (3) oil mills; (4) road construction and building operations and (5) stone-breaking and stone-crushing. Government also appointed committees to advise it on the fixation of minimum wages in respect of the employees of the local authorities and transport companies.[1] On the advice of these committees and in consultation with the Wages Advisory Board government fixed minimum wages in all these industries, which were also enforced in the Bhavnagar district. Benefits of giving minimum wages to other categories of workers were gradually extended by the government from time to time, details of which are given in Chapter V entitled 'Industries' in the section of 'Welfare of Industrial labour'.

1. VAKIL AND LAKDAWALA, *Economic Survey of Saurashtra*, p. 259, 1953

STANDARD OF LIFE

Income of an ordinary family, and amenities of life within the reach of its members depend on the productive resources available in the region and employment offered by these resources and ultimately deterimine the standard of life of the people in a region.

Rural

Because of their predominantly agricultural character, the occupational structure, levels of income, expenditure pattern and the cost of living in rural areas differ from those in towns. A broad survey of a few families in some typical villages of the district was carried out in 1961 to collect the required data. The account given below is based on the material available from the survey, personal observations and impressions gathered. Selection of families was done on the basis of stratified random sampling, covering different strata of society. Agriculturists were considered under three different categories according to the size of their holding and income derived from cultivation, viz., (a) large cultivators possessing more than 55 acres of land, (b) medium cultivators possessing land between 15 and 55 acres, and (c) small cultivators possessing less than 15 acres of land, besides agricultural labourers, village artisans, and miscellaneous occupations like grocers, retail traders, teachers, Ayuryedic practitioners, cattle breeders, government employees and salaried people.

Large Cultivators—A family in this class on an average possessed about 47 acres of land valued at about Rs. 14,700. Holdings varied from 35 to 126 acres. Families earning an annual income of more than Rs. 3,000 were also placed in this group

The principal source of income of this group was agriculture. Live-stock constituted a subsidiary source of income. On an average each family had 12 animals, the total average value of which came to about Rs. 1,800. Average number of earners per family was 3. Despite preference for family labour, more than half the families had to employ hired labour because of large-size holdings.

Average annual income per family was Rs. 5,600. Nearly 75 per cent of the families were able to save regularly, either in cash or precious metals and ornaments, or in such profitable investments as bank deposits, insurance premia or money-lending. Some utilised them in land improvement or construction of houses. Lavish and wasteful expenditure incurred on several social and religious occasions and ceremonies some times consumed a considerable portion of accumulated savings. Debts constituted only a small fraction of the total assets. Besides land, most of the large cultivators owned two to three houses inclusive of a farm house, valued at Rs. 3,300 approximately. Besides agricultural implements, in one or two cases the cultivator had a tractor and an oil engine also. Their household equipment was adequate for a comfortable living.

Expenditure on food could not be precisely calculated in terms of money, since most of their requirements for cereals, pulses, milk, *ghee*, vegetables, etc., were met from their own produce. Average annual expenditure on clothing was found to be about 15 per cent and that on social ceremonies about 11.5 per cent of the total annual expenditure. Expenditure on fuel and lighting did not cost much, as they used cow-dung cakes, plant stumps and other fuel locally available.

Medium Cultivators—The agricultural middle class constitutes 45·22 per cent of the total cultivators, possessing holdings between 15 to 55 acres. Their annual income was more than Rs. 1,000 but less than Rs. 3,000. A family in this class on an average earned Rs. 1,800 and possessed 23 acres of land. They generally owned at least one pair of bullocks, a plough and other working implements. Many of them also had a cart. Average number of earners per family was between 2 and 3. Family members helped the head of the household in carrying out various agricultural operations and looked after the livestock of the family.

Besides farming, livestock provided a subsidiary source of income to some of them. Families found to be saving were few. Debts were incurred for productive as well as unproductive purposes. More than half of the debt was for improvement of agriculture, and the rest on marriage and other social occasions. Main agencies of credit were relatives, friends, co-operative societies and land-mortage banks.

The prosperity or otherwise of this class depends almost entirely upon the charatcter of monsoon. A little change by way of rise in food prices or cash crops is immediately reflected in the improvement of their economic condition and *vice versa*.

The expenditure pattern of this group does not show any significant variation from that of the preceding group. The position as regards assets was not unsatisfactory. Almost all the families investigated owned a minimum of one or two houses, the approximate value of which came to Rs. 2,000 on an average, and 7 to 8 animals valued at about Rs. 1,100. Many had semi-liquid assets in the form of precious metals and ornaments.

Small Cultivators—This class of small cultivators constitutes 50·58 per cent of the total cultivators. Bulk of the low-income group farmers pursued a crop pattern that indicated a cereal economy, whereas the higher-income group farmers derived bulk of their realisations from cash crops.

Average number of earners per family was 2, one of them being a female. The average land holding was about 7 acres per family roughly valued at Rs. 1,650. Annual income per family averaged to Rs. 850 approximately, derived from farming, supplemented by wages earned as agricultural labourers. There was considerable amount of under-employment and periods of enforced idleness, as their small holdings could not provide sufficient employment all the year round.

Most of the families had deficit budgets, because of sub-economic holdings and a subsistence level of farming. Many of them had to incur debts to bridge the gap between income and expenditure. The average debt per indebted family came to about Rs. 450. The expenditure pattern revealed a significant variation in that the percentage of expenditure on food was higher than that in the preceeding two groups.

Besides landed property, most of the familes owned a house which was generally a tiny, dilapidated structure built with mud or unburnt bricks. Most of the families also possessed a bullock or two and one or two other cattle. Other assets included a few ornaments, miscellaneous domestic articles and farm equipment. Families that possessed a cart were very few.

Agricultural Labourers—A labourer's family consisted of about 4 to 5 persons. Grown up boys and girls and even the female members helped the head of the family in earning their bread. In view of the fact that agricultural labourers get their wages both in kind and cash, it was difficult to compute exactly their total annual income in terms of money, which was estimated to vary from Rs. 400 to 600. With such limited income, it was but natural that most of the families were not able to satisfy even the basic requirements and consequently suffered from mal-nutrition and heavy indebtedness.

Beyond the barest minimum of traditional ornaments worn by married women, which were usually of brass or tin and in very rare cases of silver, the family did not have any other valuables worth the name. The only implement owned by them was a sickle or two. Their clothing was coarse and poor. Their household equipment consisted mainly of a few earthen and tin utensils, besides a wooden cot or two used for sitting and sleeping.

Village Artisans—Village artisans who provide miscellaneous services form an important section of the village community. Main categories included in this class are the *suthar* (carpenter), *luhar* (blacksmith), *mochi* (cobbler), *darji* (tailor) and *valand* (barber). They receive part payment for their services in the form of foodgrains from the farmers. This system is known as *atha* in some parts of the district.

Average number of earners per family was 2. About 70 per cent of the artisans owned their houses, bigger in space than those owned by other classes. A few artisans also owned some land. Quite often a family was found having a few milch cattle such as goats, a cow, or a buffalo.

Average annual income of a family amounted to about Rs. 900. Economically carpenters were better off than other artisans. The level of income of this class was just enough to make both ends meet. As many as 55 per cent of the families were in debt. Average debt per indebted family was about Rs. 450. Debt was incurred usually for unproductive purposes such as maintenance, sickness, marriages and other social occasions. Relatives, friends and co-operative societies constituted the main sources of credit.

Articles of ordinary domestic use were neither in plenty nor in short supply. In common with other classes, ornaments constituted the chief semi-liquid asset with the artisans.

Total number of their working days in a year did not usually exceed 200. For the remaining days they remained unemployed or under-employed, when they had to fall back upon the only alternative of hiring out their labour for agricultural purposes.

Other Classes

Traders—Traders represent a distinct social group. The volume of their business varies largely according to the population and economic condition of the peasantry inhabiting the village. While at one end of the scale is the tiny village grocer whose monthly turnover is about Rs. 250, at the other are those fortunate few whose turnover is comparable to that of an urban trader. The typical village trader is often a trinity of seller, buyer and money-lender. The agricultural bias of the rural economy has largely been responsible for this unique combination of functions. The trader lends money to cultivators for agricultural purposes as well as for meeting their day-to-day needs, and realises it at the harvest time mostly in kind. His annual income ranged from Rs. 800 to 2,000 and the average per family came to Rs.1,300. Traders lived in their own houses. Their income more or less balanced the expenditure without leaving any margin for extra expenditure on items like medical care and other contingencies.

Salaried People—This group includes such persons as school teachers, petty government servants, village-level functionaries, Ayurvedic practitioners, etc. The average annual income of a family of this group was found to be about Rs. 1,250. Many of them had deficit budgets. However, there was one noteworthy feature, namely, that on account of the fixity of income, they had, by long usage, adjusted their expenditure to income so that in their case indebtedness was less marked than in the case of others.

Concluding Remarks—The preceding analysis reveals that it was the large cultivator whose standard of living has improved to a considerable extent in recent times. The execution of various developmental schemes and the introduction of land reforms after Independence coupled with the continuous rise in prices of food and cash crops over a long period have placed him in a very advantageous position. The better economic condition of this group is reflected in their houses newly constructed, and in their dress, entertainment and education. The lot of the medium-sized cultivator has also improved though not to the same extent. But the petty land-holders and the landless-labourers still seem to be in a precarious condition.

Urban

There are 13 towns and one city, namely, Bhavnagar which is the headquarters of the district and an important port on the Saurashtra coast. The

total urban population of the district according to the 1961 Census is 352,429 persons, or about 31 per cent.

Bhavnagar city was selected for the urban survey, because of its pronounced urban characteristics, its importance as a centre of commerce and industry, and its position as an educational nerve-centre of the region. To get a broad idea of its living conditions, urban society was classified into four income groups, viz., (a) Group-I families whose annual income was Rs. 1,000 of less, (b) Group-II families with annual income between Rs. 1,001 and 2,000, (c) Group-III families with annual income between Rs. 2,001 and 4,000 and (d) Group-IV families having annual income of Rs. 4,001 or more. In the selection of families, care was taken to make the survey representative by including most of the important occupations of the city.

Lower Class (Income Group I—Rs. 1,000 or less)—This group mainly consisted of unskilled and semi-skilled labourers, shop assistants and clerical staff in commercial establishments, peons, petty artisans, etc. Their family income was miserably low and in many instances employment was not of a permanent character. They generally lived in single-room tenements, a negligible percentage of which was owned.

Average monthly income per family was Rs. 52, and average monthly expenditure about Rs. 80 showing a deficit of about Rs. 28 per month. Average debt per family amounted to Rs. 525. One of the ways adopted for bridging the gap between their meagre earning and expenditure was to postpone payment of a part or the whole of one of the bills in turn. It was an extenuating factor that borrowing from relatives and friends which represnted nearly half of the total debts was interest-free. In a few instances, money-lenders were also resorted to for petty loans, the rate of interest varying from 12 to 75 per cent in extreme cases.

Almost two-thirds of the total expenditure was incurred on food. Green vegetables, milk, sweets, etc., seldom entered into their menu. Clothing, housing, fuel and lighting constituted the next major items of expenditure followed by that on social occasions. Tea, *bidi*, tobacco, etc., have become as much necessities of life as food and clothing. Expenditure on entertainment was negligible, and that on education only 1.1 per cent.

Lower Middle Class (Income Group II—Rs. 1,001 to 2,000)—The lower middle class consisted of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers, primary school teachers, clerks, hawkers and small traders, coachmen, taxi drivers, motor mechanics, bus conductors and drivers and others self-employed in small or independent vocations. The education level of this group was a little higher than that in the lower income group, as a relatively larger number of persons of this group had received secondary and higher education.

Average monthly income of a family amounted to about Rs. 108 per month or about Rs. 1,300 a year. Average annual expenditure was

reported to be about Rs. 1,800 leaving an average deficit of about Rs. 500 per annum. Nearly 90 per cent of the families had deficit budgets. About 60 per cent of them were in debt. Average indebtedness amounted to Rs. 754. Main reasons for indebtedness were insufficient income, expenditure on marriage and other social occasions, and education of children. Relatives and friends constituted the chief source of borrowings, besides co-operatve societies and banks. Money-lenders were also approached. Whereas loans from relatives and friends were interest-free, those from money-lenders were had at high rates of interest.

About 25 per cent of the families owned houses and the rest lived in rented premises. Land was rarely owned and ornaments possessed were few.

About sixty per cent of the total income was spent on food. In terms of percentage expenditure there were no major changes in the pattern noticed for the preceding group. The expenditure on each of the items such as clothing, housing, fuel and lighting was between 5 and 10 per cent.

Upper Middle Class (Income Group III—Rs. 2,001 to 4,000)—The upper middle class is drawn from various vocational groups such as government servants of the higher grade, college lecturers, school teachers, proprietors of small industrial establishments, tailors, opticians, goldsmiths and others having independent occupations, retailers, small merchants, etc.

Percentage of literacy in this group was comparatively high. Of the persons above six years of age, about 94 per cent were literate, of whom about 37 per cent had received education up to the secondary level and 4.6 per cent up to the college level. Housing conditions were relatively better than those of the lower income groups. On an average, a family in this group had a dwelling of three rooms. Nearly 50 per cent of the families did not pay any rent, of whom about 80 per cent owned their houses and about 20 per cent lived in quarters provided by their employers.

Average annual income of a family was about Rs. 2,700 and expenditure about Rs. 3,000. About 60 per cent of the families had deficit budgets, the extent of deficit ranging from Rs. 20 to 1,500. Savings were not confined to families with surplus budgets only, as those with balanced or deficit budgets resorted to saving by way of insurance premia or provident fund contributions. Deficit in many instances was a recurring one and was met either by disposing of property and ornaments or by incurring debts. Half of the debt was incurred for productive purposes such as investments in business and education and the rest for marriage, maintenance, medical treatment, etc.

Nearly half of the families in this group owned houses, the average value per house being Rs. 11,000. A few families possessed domestic animals such as goats, hens, etc. Almost all families were found to be having ornaments

the value of which varied from Rs. 100 to 4,000. Other valuable articles commonly possessed included women's silk garments, wrist-watches, time-pieces and clocks. Not a few families possessed radio sets, bicycles and some furniture. Some owned electric fans and irons, gramophones and musical instruments also. Nearly half of the families employed domestic servants. Most of them were part-time, usually working for an hour or two.

Expenditure on food accounted for more than half the total expenditure. This group could afford to incur a comparatively greater expenditure on milk and *ghee*, edible oils, spices and vegetables. Clothing claimed more than 10 per cent. Social and religious occasions and ceremonies, travelling, and medical care were the main items of miscellaneous expenditure. In marked contrast to the previous two income groups, expenditure on education constituted a comparatively greater percentage of the total expenditure.

Upper Class (Income Group IV—Rs. 4,001 and above)—This income group was economically well off and its members led a fairly comfortable life. It included owners of factories, technicians, retail and wholesale traders, medical practitioners, pleaders, goldsmith-*cum*-jewellers, proprietors of lodging and boarding houses and government servants drawing higher salaries. As is to be expected, literacy in this income group was relatively higher as income has direct relation to educational achievements.

Nearly 55 per cent of the families surveyed owned their houses while 6 per cent were residing in rent-free quarters. The rest occupied rented premises. The average number of rooms per family came to 5. Most of the families in this group who were tenants in Bhavnagar owned houses elsewhere.

Average monthly income of a family in this group was Rs. 605 and average monthly expenditure Rs. 475. About 95 per cent of the families in this group had either balanced or surplus budgets.

The group as a whole not only had property in the form of owned buildings but also possessed movable assets such as ornaments, furniture, woollen and silk clothing and other articles of entertainment, comfort and ostentation, besides shares, bonds, debentures, etc. More than 65 per cent of the families possessed radio sets and bicycles. A few also owned cars. Other miscellaneous articles possessed included musical instruments, electric fans clocks, wrist-watches, time-pieces, electric irons, etc. Barring investments in business, insurance policies and deposits in banks figure prominently in savings. About 85 per cent of the families had domestic servants. The percentage of families in debt was nearly 38. A large proportion of money borrowed was generally invested in business and for capital expenditure and a very negligible percentage for consumption and unproductive channels. The most important sources of borrowings were banks, friends, relatives and government.

Families in this group spent nearly 45 per cent of the total expenditure on food. Miscellaneous expenditure accounted for nearly 30 per cent followed in order by clothing, fuel and lighting, education, housing and entertainment. A higher expenditure on education indicates not only greater literacy but a higher level of education as well. A comparatively higher expenditure on medical care reflects their capacity and desire to keep fit and healthy. In terms of percentages, expenditure on foodgrains and pulses as a general rule declined with rising income but that on nutritive articles like milk and *ghee* increased (14 per cent), vegetables, fruits, eggs, mutton, etc., accounting for nearly 17 per cent.

General Level of Employment

With a view to make an assessment of manpower requirements of professional, scientific, skilled, and technical workers, and to determine more correctly the type of personnel in short supply, as also to know the employment opportunities likely to arise the State Directorate of Employment maintains districtwise records of persons seeking employment. In Bhavnagar, Employment Exchange was first established in December, 1955. At first it concentrated more on the employment aspect by recommending the right type of personnel to employers and assisting the employment seekers in obtaining a job according to their qualifications and experience. From June 1958, it began also to undertake periodical collection of information regarding employment strength, job creations, and vacancies where the right type of personnel were not easily available. With the passing of 'The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Rules, 1960' by which establishments in the public sector and establishments normally employing 25 or more persons in the private sector, were to notify their vacancies to the Employment Exchange, before recruitment, the activities of the Employment Exchange have further expanded.

The following statement gives employment exchange statistics of the district for the period 1960 to 1965.

STATEMENT IX·13

Employment Exchange Statistics, 1960–65

Period	Number of registrations	Number placed in employment	Number on the live register at the end of each period	Number of employers using exchange	Number of vacancies notified
1	2	3	4	5	6
1960 (May to December)	5,735	722	4,928	161	1,051
1961 ..	9,205	757	5,310	240	941
1962 ..	9,600	1,012	6,611	214	1,134
1963 ..	9,140	648	7,226	257	862
1964 ..	7,837	681	6,025	317	1,132
1965 ..	8,312	1,086	5,976	310	1,69[illegible]

Source :
District Employment Officer, Bhavnagar

The number of employment seekers available on the register of the Employment Exchange, as indicated by the number on the live register, went on increasing from 4,928 on 31st December 1960 to 7,226 on 31st December, 1963, but declined thereafter. The number of employers using the Employment Exchange, and the vacancies notified by the employers showed wide fluctuations during this period. Whereas the increase in the number of vacancies notified was 60.99 per cent, that of employers using the Exchange was 92.54 per cent.

Five Year Plans

After the Independence of India, various welfare and developmental activities were initiated for the social and economic uplift of the people through successive Five Year Plans by systematic planning to ensure maximum utilisation of country's man-power and material resources. Expenses incurred in various sectors during the First and Second Five Year Plans in Bhavnagar district are given below. The figures for the First Plan are given to the extent available.

STATEMENT IX·14

Expenditure Incurred under Various Heads during the First Two Five Year Plans

(Expenditure in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Head	1st Plan Expenditure	1st Plan Percentage	2nd Plan Expenditure	2nd Plan Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Agriculture ..	1,258,228	3.45	6,427,180	6.64
2	Forests ..	N. A.	..	760,601	0.79
3	Irrigation ..	9,058,842	24.81	30,477,582	31.50
4	Community Development ..	N. A.	..	5,251,880	5.43
5	Co-operation ..	141,020	0.39	6,464,050	6.68
6	Local institutions ..	8,976,395	24.58	9,446,138	9.76
7	Ports ..	5,486,445	15·02	10,771,589	11.13
8	Roads and bridges ..	6,537,376	17.90	11,301,383	11.68
9	Cottage industries ..	331,900	0.91	753,618	0.78
10	Industries ..	N. A.	..	572,275	0.59
	Social Welfare Services				
11	Worker's welfare ..	18,800	0.05	21,100	0.02
12	Health and medical services ..	N. A.	..	4,203,400	4.35
13	Education ..	4,467,582	12.23	8,972,333	9,28
14	Backward Classes and social welfare ..	N.A.	..	664,020	0.69
15	House building ..	241,165	0.66	660,589	0.68
	Total	36,517,759	100.00	96,747,738	100.00

N. A.—Not available

Note :

1. The total expenditure under the 1st Plan excludes expenditure for forests, Community Development, industries, health and medical services, and Backward Classes and social welfare, for which figures are not available.
2. The percentage expenditure under different 'Heads' during the 1st Plan are arrived at by excluding items mentioned in 2 above.

Source :

Gujarat Rajya, Pragti na Panthe, Bhavnagar Jilla, October, 1961

Expenditure incurred in the First Five Year Plan totalled Rs. 36,517,753 exclusive of the expenditure incurred on forests, community development, industries, health and medical services, and Backward Classess and social welfare for which figures are not available. The Second Plan was far more ambitious. It was implemented by incurring a total expenditure of Rs. 96,747,738. Both the Plans laid great emphasis on irrigation projects to step up food production. They top the list with an expenditure of Rs. 9,058,842 during the First Plan as against Rs. 30,477,582 during the Second. The next in order of expenditure comes local institutions which claimed Rs. 8.976,395 and Rs. 9,446,138 respectively during the First and Second Plan periods. Then follow in order roads and bridges, ports, education, etc. Together with irrigation, agriculture accounted for a total expenditure of Rs. 10,317,070 and Rs. 36,904,762 respectively during the First and Second Plan periods.

Establishment of subsidised agricultural farms, distribution of fertilizers and manures, starting of seed multiplication farms, introduction of improved seeds, and research in dry farming along with soil conservation measures constitute the most important items of work carried out in the district for the development of agriculture and farming. Animal husbandry was likewise attended to by providing adequate veterinary facilities and improving the breed of livestock. Area under irrigation was extended appreciably by (1) construction of minor and medium irrigation works and (2) construction of new wells and repairs to old ones. The utilisation of electric power was simultaneously expanded to meet growing needs of agriculture and industries. Expansion of co-operative activities and establishment of regulated markets helped eliminate the middlemen and put an end to the exploitation of the agriculturists at the hands of the village money-lenders. Means of transport and communications were *pari passu* expanded to cope with the increasing demands of agricultural and industrial production. The most important work undertaken in the district, however, was the construction of a lock-gate at Bhavnagar Port at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 lakhs. The pace of industrialisation was fairly rapid as can be seen from the increase in the number of registered factories from 183 in 1956 to 242 in 1961 with a corresponding increase in small-scale establishments from 146 to 198 during the same period. Development of human resources did not lag behind. Various facilities and social services such as medical and education, amelioration of the condition of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes were provided and implemented by financially helping them in a number of ways as also by providing various amenities conducive to their welfare.

Expenses incurred under various sectors during the Third Five Year Plan (1961-66) period in the district had been as follows.

STATEMENT IX.15

Expenditure Incurred under Various Sectors during the Third Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector	Expenditure (Rs.)	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1	Agricultural programme	6,094,568	9.20
	(a) Agricultural production	1,151,850	1.74
	(b) Minor irrigation	4,507,044	6.80
	(c) Animal husbandry	435,674	0.66
2	Community development and panchayats ..	4,782,641	7.22
3	Co-operation	2,280,792	3.44
4	Irrigation and electrification (including flood control)	30,944,966	46.70
5	Cottage and small-scale industries	709,996	1.07
6	Road development	6,288,770	9.49
7	Social services	15,156,867	22.87
	(a) Education	3,072,887	4.64
	(b) Health	9,374,310	14.14
	(c) Housing	2,172,643	3.28
	(d) Welfare of Backward Classes	537,027	0.81
	Miscellaneous	3,958	0.01
	Total	**66,262,558**	**100.00**

Source :

1. Collector, Bhavnagar
2. District Statistical Officer, Bhavnagar

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Community Development Programme is a unique and altogether a fresh and scientific endeavour to mobolise public enthusiasm and co-operation in rebuilding the rural economy of India and in preparing ground for a stronger base for industrial progress and to enthuse a new life by creating a new pattern of society in rural areas. Community Developmnt Programme was initiated in the country in October 1952, and inaugurated in the district by starting the first development block at Botad in October 1954. Three

types of development blocks known as N.E.S., C.D., and post-intensive blocks were conceived. They marked the three different phases of development in rural areas. N.E.S. was a preparatory period when the area was to be prepared to receive a heavy development dose during the next stage of community development which was a period of intensive stage, being the assumptions that the area would be sufficiently developed and people educated and conscious enough to keep up by themselves the tempo of work already released during the C.D. stage. Because of the comparative backwardness of the region, the former Saurashtra Government considered that there will be an unavoidable time-lag before the people could understand and appreciate the objectives of the programme, and special efforts were necessary to obliterate past associations which hindered development and came in the way of intimate understanding between the people and the Extension Services. A scheme of Pre-Extension Service called P.E.S blocks, with a skeleton extension staff was, therefore, initiated as a State scheme in addition to the all-India programme of Community Development. During 1956-57 Planning Commission appointed the Balwantray Mehta Committee to examine the working of the C. D. programme and related matters and to recommend measures for improving the quality, tone, and content of the programme. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee the existing distinction between the N.E.S. stage, intensive development and the post-intensive stages was abolished from 1st April 1958 and all blocks were classified into two categories, viz., Stage I blocks and Stage II blocks with revised financial patterns and periods of operations. A Stage I block has a 5 year period of operation with a ceiling expenditure of Rs. 12 lakhs for this period. It is an " Intensive Development " phase in which people's participation would be promoted as the method of community development and panchayats will be intimately connected with the formulation of plans for their respective areas. After completing Stage I, the block will enter Stage II, with a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs for 5 years during which period the process of community development would be intensified in its fuller amplitude by a greater emphasis on community development rather than on development programmes as such. Accordingly, all N.E.S. blocks were regularised as Stage I blocks, and all post-intensive blocks as Stage II blocks. The existing C.D. blocks were to continue till their term expired, when they entered Stage II. The State Government having accepted the decision, categorised the existing development blocks into these two stages with effect from 1st April 1958.

In March 1961 there were six Stage I blocks at Gadhada, Savarkundla, Sihor-Umrala, Vallabhipur, Mahuva, Talaja and one Stage II block at Botad in the district, whereas in 1964-65 there were six Stage I blocks at Palitana, Talaja, Gariadhar, Bhavnagar, Gogha, and Mahuva, and six Stage II blocks at Sihor, Umrala, Gadhada, Vallabhipur, Botad and Savarkundla. Detailed information regarding the number of blocks of each stage, villages and population covered, expenditure incurred, and poeple's contribution up to 1964-65 is given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX·16

Community Development Programme up to 1964-65 (Since inaguration)

Sl. No.	Name of the block	Population covered by the block (As per 1961 Census)	Area covered by the block (In sq. miles)	Number of villages and towns covered by the block	Date of starting of the block	Total expenditure incurred up to 1964-65 (Rs.)	Total People's contribution up to 1964-65 (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Stage I Blocks						
1	Palitana ..	65,290	274.9	94	15-4-1956	477,401	17,358
2	Talaja ..	103,573	334.2	120	2-10-1960	644,113	221,573
3	Gariadha ..	56,401	177.5	52	1-4-1956	443,073	60,889
4	Bhavnagar	58,040	344.8	60	1-4-1956	405,496 (Bhavnagar and Gogha)	59,063 (Bhavnagar and Gogha)
5	Gogha ..	40,035	223.6	47	1-4-1956		
6	Mahuva ..	116,765	471.2	133	2-10-1959	1,181,962	186,409
	Total Stage I	*440,104*	*1,826.2*	*506*		*3,212,045*	*545,292*
	Stage II Blocks						
7	Sihor ..	78,717	280.2	81	1-4-1957	1,087,445	226,194
8	Umrala ..	44,206	153.2	44	1-4-1957	15,340	21,200
9	Gadhada ..	71,856	352.2	76	1-4-1956	1,182,773	180,354
10	Vallabhipur ..	40,992	225.9	54	1-2-1955	351,565	107,522
11	Botad ..	51,514	285.5	52	1-4-1956	1,253,585	363,482
12	Savarkundla ..	98,775	470.1	81	2-10-1953	1,929,358	223,275
	Total Stage II ..	*386,059*	*1,767.1*	*388*		*5,820,066*	*1,120,977*
	District Total ..	**826,163**	**3,593.3**	**894**		**9,032,111**	**1,666,269**

Source:

District Statistical Officer, Bhavnagar

Community development projects include activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, health and rural sanitation, education, communications, village and small industries, co-operation, etc. All the villages of the district have now been covered under this programme. The details about physical achievements up to 31st March, 1965, of the community development blocks are given in Statement IX·17 at the end of the Chapter. Total expenditure on the various community development projects up to 31st March, 1965 was Rs. 9,032,111. People's contribution for these projects for the same period amounted to Rs. 1,666,269, it being 18.4 per cent of the total expenditure incurred.

STATEMENTS

STATEMENT IX·10

Wholesale Prices of Important Agricultural Commodities, 1958-65

(PER BENGALI MAUND IN RUPEES)

BHAVNAGAR

Sl. No.	Commodity	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Rice (Fine)	35.25	N. A.	37.53	49.20	43.75	47.85	58.41	N. A.
2	Rice (Medium)	31.50	32.50	31.82	35.20	25.81	26.91	34.07	N. A.
3	Rice (Coarse)	27.62	N. A.	26.83	21.90	20.93	23.55	27.98	N. A.
4	Wheat (White)	23.12	25.50	23.78	22.67	24.30	24.30	30.94	35.77
5	Wheat (Red)	20.62	23.25	N. A.	20.04	21.68	19.44	29.20	30.86
6	*Jowar*	12.69	14.75	14.72	14.74	16.82	13.08	18.61	25.15
7	*Bajri*	18.25	17.64	17.54	19.65	20.18	16.82	22.44	29.91
8	Gram *dal*	N. A.	18.98	18.19	19.01	19.44	19.44	33.59	50.78
9	*Mug*	N. A.	22.31	21.03	21.94	20.56	20.56	32.32	36.13
10	*Udid*	N. A.	26.44	25.59	20.69	23.92	25.04	24·14	25.24
11	Groundnut	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	28.48	26.54	27.20	29.85	35.24
12	*Gur*	N. A.	19.12	16.86	14.43	N. A.	30.28	33.68	19.43

KUNDLA

Sl. No.	Commodity	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
1	Rice (Fine)	35·75	39·87	38·16	38·24	40·37	56·07	44·07	43·84
2	Rice (Medium)	28·00	35·14	32·92	30·14	27·85	27·28	30·64	33·58
3	Rice (Coarse)	25·00	30·98	28·91	24·49	23·93	22·80	26·39	29·88
4	Wheat (White)	22·50	27·44	23·82	23·72	23·92	22·80	30·40	33·26
5	Wheat (Red)	19·12	23·00	20·35	19·47	19·81	20·18	27 95	27·34
6	*Jowar*	12·87	14·61	15·97	14·87	16 07	14·20	17·10	23·86
7	*Bajri*	17·50	19·51	18·89	21·37	22·43	18·69	23·29	31·32
8	Gram *dal*	N. A.	18·71	19·36	20·94	20·56	19 81	26·53	42·75
9	*Mug*	N. A.	21·89	19·24	22·00	23.17	22·80	28·21	32·33
10	*Udid*	N. A.	30·22	28·61	27·59	23·92	23·92	29·38	26·66
11	Groundnut	N. A.	N. A.	25·29	27·39	25·79	24·30	27·81	32·10
12	*Gur*	N. A.	N. A.	20·27	22·50	N. A.	N. A.	35·44	15·23

MAHUVA

Sl. No.	Commodity	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
1	Rice (Fine)	33·75	N. A.	43·00	41.15	37.01	43.74	44 77	44·77
2	Rice (Medium)	29·50	34·50	35·33	30.49	27.66	28·41	33 11	32·89
3	Rice (Coarse)	25 87	N. A.	21·33	25·74	22.05	23·92	26·49	31·40
4	Wheat (White)	22·37	19·75	21·33	21·00	21.68	25 79	27 31	31·64
5	Wheat (Red)	19 75	17·75	24 00	19·55	19.81	20·56	24·11	29·33
6	*Jowar*	13·31	16·25	16·33	14·20	15·70	15·70	14·48	23·13
7	*Bajri*	17·00	17.50	19 00	20·16	20·19	17·57	24·25	30·56
8	Gram *dal*	N. A.	17·75	17·66	19·91	18·32	17·95	26·80	42·35
9	*Mug*	N. A.	16·95	19·00	20·25	19.44	19·81	25·37	34 29
10	*Udid*	N. A.	19·25	24·33	20·00	20·93	23·92	23·78	26·36
11	Groundnut	N. A.	17·75	N. A.	29·45	25·42	N. A.	27·70	30·88
12	*Gur*	N. A.	18·25	19.75	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	15 32	33·58

N. A.=Not available

Source:

District Statistical Officer, Bhavnagar

STATEMENT IX·12

Average Daily Wages of Workers for Selected Places, 1962-66

BHAVNAGAR

(IN RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Type of labour		Sept. 1963	Feb. 1964	July 1964	Jan. 1965	July 1965	Sept. 1966
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Skilled labour							
	(a) Carpenters	..	5·50	5·50	5·00	5·50	6·00	6·00
	(b) Blacksmiths	..	5·00	5·75	5·00	5·50	5·75	5·00
	(c) Cobblers	..	3·00	5·00	5·00	5·75	5·50	4·00
2	Field labour							
	(a) Men	..	2·00	2·25	2·25	2·25	2·25	2·50
	(b) Women	..	1·50	2·00	2·00	2·00	1·75	2·00
	(c) Children	..	1·00	1·50	1·50	1·50	1·50	1·25
3	Other agricultural labour							
	(a) Men	..	2·50	2·00	2·50	2·00	2·00	2·00
	(b) Women	..	2·00	1·50	1·75	1·75	1·75	1·75
	(c) Children	..	1·50	1·25	1·50	1·50	1·50	1·00
4	Herdsmen		N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.

GOGHA

Sl. No.	Type of labour		April 1962	Sept. 1962	April 1963	Sept. 1963	Sept. 1964	April 1965	Sept. 1965
	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Skilled labour								
	(a) Carpenters	..	6·00	5·00	5·00	5·20	5·00	5·00	6·00
	(b) Blacksmiths	..	4·50	4·50	4·50	5·25	4·00	4·50	7·00
	(c) Cobblers	..	4·00	5·00	5·00	3·50	5·00	4·50	5·00
2	Field labour								
	(a) Men	.	1·25	1·00	1·00	1·25	2·50	2·00	1·50
	(b) Women	..	1·00	1·00	1·00	N. A.	1·50	1·50	1·50
	(c) Children	..	N. A.	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·00	0·75	0·75
3	Other agricultural labour								
	(a) Men	..	2·00	1·50	1·50	2·00	2·50	2·00	2·00
	(b) Women	..	1·50	0·93	0·75	1·50	1·50	1·50	1·50
	(c) Children	..	N. A.	0·65	0·05	N. A.	1·00	1·00	N. A.
4	Herdsmen								
	(a) Men	..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	3.50	3.50	N. A.
	(b) Women	..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	2.50	N. A.
	(c) Children	..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	1.00	N. A.

Source :

Gujarat Labour Gazettes

STATEMENT IX-12—*contd.*

MAHUVA

(IN RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Type of Labour	Nov. 1963	April 1964	Sept. 1964	April 1965	July 1965	Sept. 1966
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Skilled labour						
	(a) Carpenters	6·00	6·00	6·00	6·00	6·00	6·00
	(b) Blacksmiths	5·00	5·00	5·00	6·00	6·00	6·00
	(c) Cobblers	4·00	4·00	4·00	4·00	5·00	5·00
2	Field labour						
	(a) Men	2·00	2·00	2·50	2·00	2·50	2·50
	(b) Women	1·50	1·25	1·75	1·75	2·00	2·00
	(c) Children	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·25	1·25	1·75
3	Other agricultural labour						
	(a) Men	1·50	1·50	1·75	2·00	2·00	3·00
	(b) Women	1·00	1·25	1·50	1·50	1·50	2·50
	(c) Children	0·75	1·00	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
4	Herdsmen	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.

BOTAD

Sl. No.	Type of Labour	Nov. 1963	April 1964	Sept. 1964	April 1965	July 1965	Sept. 1966
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Skilled labour						
	(a) Carpenters	5·00	5·00	6·00	6·00	5·00	4·00
	(b) Blacksmiths	6·00	6·00	6·00	6·00	6·00	5·00
	(c) Cobblers	4·00	4·00	5·00	5·00	4·00	5·00
2	Field labour						
	(a) Men	1·50	1·50	1·50	1·50	1·50	2·00
	(b) Women	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·50
	(c) Children	0·75	0·75	0·75	0·75	0·75	0·75
3	Other agricultural labour						
	(a) Men	1·75	1·50	1·75	2·00	1·75	2·50
	(b) Women	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·50
	(c) Children	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	1·00	N. A.
4	Herdsmen						
	(a) Men	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	1·00	1·00	N. A.
	(b) Women and Children ..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.

N. A. = Not available

STATEMENT IX·17

Physical Achievements of Community Development Blocks up to 31st March, 1965 (Since inauguration)

Sl. No. 1	Name of Item 2	Achievement 3
1	**Agriculture**	
	(a) Distribution of improved seeds (quintals)	197,102
	(b) Distribution of fertilizers and manures (quintals)	396,050
	(c) Distribution of improved implements (No.)	6,184
	(d) Agricultural demonstrations (No.)	7,226
2	**Animal Husbandry**	
	(a) Improved breed of animals supplied (No.)	315
	(b) Improved breed of birds supplied (No.)	1,135
	(c) Animals castrated (No.)	15,143
	(d) Animals artificially inseminated (No.)	1,726
3	**Minor Irrigation**	
	(a) *Kachcha* wells constructed, repaired or renovated (No.)	3,845
	(b) *Pucca* wells constructed, repaired or renovated (No.)	5,951
	(c) Tanks constructed, repaired or renovated (No.)	35
	(d) Channels constructed, repaired or renovated (km.)	165.76
	(e) Tubewells and pump-sets installed (No.)	3,938
	(f) Others (No.)	473
	(g) Net additional area likely to be irrigated (in acres)	58,734
4	**Health and Rural Sanitation**	
	(a) Primary health centres started (No.)	10
	(b) Rural latrines constructed (No.)	884
	(c) *Pucca* drains constructed (km.)	12.07
	(d) Village lanes paved (km.)	19.92
	(e) Drinking water wells constructed or renovated (No.)	1,371
	(f) Disinfection of drinking water wells (No.)	4,431
	(g) Hand-pumps installed (No.)	320
5	**Social Education**	
	(a) Literacy centres started (No.)	2,593
	(b) Adults made literate (No.)	39,553
	(c) Reading rooms and libraries started (No.)	704
	(d) Youth clubs started (No.)	486
	(e) Farmers' unions started (No.)	487

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad

STATEMENT IX·17—*contd.*

Sl. No.	Name of the Item	Achievement
1	2	3
6	**Women's Programme**	
	(a) Mahila samities/mandals started (No.)	260
	(b) Membership (No.)	5,182
7	**Communications**	
	(a) *Kachha* roads constructed or improved (km.)	1655.17
	(b) Culverts constructed or repaired (No.)	71
8	**Village and Small Industries**	
	(a) Ambar *charkhas* introduced (No.)	483
	(b) New tannery pits started (No.)	289
	(c) Improved *ghanis* introduced (No.)	40
	(d) Value of improved tools and appliances distributed	
	(i) Blacksmiths (Rs.)	900
	(ii) Carpenters (Rs.)	2,200
	Total Rs.	**3,100**
9	**Co-operation**	
	(a) Co-operative societies started (No.)	529
	(b) Membership (No.)	41,985
10	**General**	
	(a) Village panchayats established (No.)	259
	(b) Number of villages covered under (a)	249
	(c) Vikas mandals/village councils organised (No.)	238

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

PHASES OF EVOLUTION

In days gone by, the functions of government being limited to the management of land and preservation of order, public administration, as today understood, was not evolved prior to Independence. Under the conditions obtaining in the Saurashtra peninsula prior to 1947 land revenue and police administration were the only departments that mattered. The administrative machinery, however, differed in different States and Estates according to their size, powers of the rulers, financial resources of the States and the progressive or regressive character of the administration. Under this orthodox set-up, the ruler was the repository of all powers, civil and criminal.

On the formation of the United State of Saurashtra in 1948, Gohilwad as this district was then called consisted of such diverse political units as Bhavnagar, Palitana, Lathi, Vala, Raisankali, Lakha Padar, Dedan, Songadh, Jafrabad, etc., marked by a heterogeneous system of administration. Among these units the State of Bhavnagar which was a first class State had a well established system of administration more or less modelled on the adjoining British areas. Though the ruler was the supreme and final authority in the State, the State was governed in his name and under his direction by the Diwan assisted by Naib-Diwans in charge of different departments according to laws and rules enacted by the Darbar. The administration of the Finance Department was regulated by Bhavnagar Act 11 of Samvat 1953 (1896 A.D.) and was in charge of the Comptroller of State Accounts. The ruler drew a fixed amount as privy purse which was provided in the State budget. The conditions prevalent in other princely areas differed widely, as there was no unified system of administration, each State being administered according to its own tradition, approach and regard for the welfare of the people. The Government of Saurashtra, which came into existence as a separate entity from April, 1948 had an uphill task to perform in placing the administrative machinery of the State on a uniform level. Since then it has passed through three distinct phases. During the first phase the entire administrative structure was overhauled and reorganised on a uniform basis, when district became the principal unit of administration with intermediate functionaries at the taluka and village levels. During the second phase, attempts were made to give a new shape to the public administration to implement the ideals of a welfare State by making the administrative machinery development oriented by increasing association of non-official agency in nation building activities. During the third and final phase the administrative set-up was democratised to suit the changing needs of time in tune with the socialistic pattern of society. These three phases will now be examined in order.

With the district as the principal unit of administration, the Collector became the key functionary and the main pivot of administration instead of the principal district officer responsible for the collection of land revenue and maintenance of law and order. He had manifold functions to perform. In the administration of land revenue, he was concerned not only with the maintenance of land records, collections of land revenue and administering the provisions of the Land Revenue Code, but also with the implementation of land reforms which were introduced immediately after integration to do away with numerous land tenures and levies which hampered the progress of the peasantry. With the separation of judiciary and the executive, his judicial powers were restricted to the maintenance of law and order in the district. On the development side, he co-ordinated the activities of various departments in the district. Later on, when the public was increasingly associated with the welfare and nation building activities undertaken by the State, he became the Chairman of the District Development Board, which looked after development work in rural areas, particularly in the field of agriculture, irrigation, community development, co-operation, social education, panchayats, etc.

The third phase in the evolution of the administrative structure appeared when the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 was implemented in 1963 with a view to democratise the entire administrative machinery from the village to the district level. The Act aims at transferring important nation building activities to the elected representatives of the people functioning at the village, taluka and district levels endowed with necessary powers, administrative personnel and adequate financial resources. This revolutionary change in the administrative set-up has led to the bifurcation of functions and responsibilities of the Collector, who now retains certain powers in respect of land revenue administration, those relating to the maintenance of law and order, and others not transferred to the Panchayats. All the development activities which were formerly within his charge as well as some of the functions under the Land Revenue Code, have, as will be seen later in the chapter on "Local Self-Government" been transferred to the panchayats constituted under the Gujarat Panchayats Act. Under this set-up there are 3 elected bodies, namely, the jilla panchayat, taluka panchayat and the village or nagar panchayat. The principal Executive Officer of the district panchayat is the District Development Officer, drawn either from the Indian Administrative Service or selected from amongst those suitable for this office. The Taluka Development Officer is likewise the principal officer at the level of taluka panchayat and the Gram Panchayat Secretary at the village level.

THE COLLECTOR

The Collector is the pivot of the district administration. Because of the overriding importance of his role as well as his proximity to the people, he is considered as the measuring rod of efficiency and efficacy of the administration. Besides superintending the realisation of land revenue,

the duties of administering the collection of excise and other special taxes and of supervising the stamp revenue devolve upon the Collector as the executive head of the district. The Collector, Bhavnagar, is also the *ex-officio* District Registrar who exercises the powers of supervision and inspection over the entire Registration staff in the district. He co-ordinates the work of the different departments functioning in the district and ensures the development of the district.

Being the principal revenue authority in the district all revenue functions were looked after by the Collector prior to the implementation of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961. However, since the implementation of that Act collection of land revenue has been entrusted to panchayats.

The Collector is further responsible for the collection of fees under various acts, such as the Bombay Irrigation Act, the Bombay Entertainment Duty Act, the Bombay Electricity Duty Act and the Gujarat Education Cess Act. There are also other revenue acts which contain provisions for the dues which are recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

As regards the Prohibition Act, the Collector has to issue personal permits to liquor and drug addicts and recover the assessment fees from shops permitted to sell liquor and drugs. The Collector of Bhavnagar, is the Chairman of the Prohibition Committee of the district.

Accounts

The Treasury is under the direct control of the Finance Department. The Collector exercises supervision over it in accordance with the provisions of the Bombay Treasury Rules. The District Treasury has been separated from the Revenue Department with effect from 1st April, 1962, the non-treasury items which were formerly dealt with by the District Treasury are now being done in the Collector's office through his staff.

Quasi-judicial Functions in Revenue Matters

Among the quasi-judicial functions of the Collector on the revenue side, over and above the hearing of appeals from the Prant Officers under the Land Revenue Code and various other revenue laws, following may be mentioned : (1) The revisional powers exercised under section 23 of the Mamlatdar's Court Act in respect of Mamlatdar's order under the Act (this power is delegated to an Assistant or Deputy Collector), (2) The work which the Collector performs in connection with the execution of Civil Court decrees, (3) Proceedings and awards under section 11 of the Land Acquisition Act, (4) Cases under the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) Act, (5) Cases under the Preventive Detention Act.

District Magistrate

Besides, being in control of the police he as District Magistrate has extensive powers under the Criminal Procedure Code, the Bombay Police Act

and other Acts for maintenance of law and order. He has also to supervise the general administration of these Acts to inspect factories and magazines and to perform various other supervisory functions. In his executive capacity, he as District Magistrate is concerned with the issue of licences and permits under the Arms Act, the Petroleum Act, the Explosives Act and the Poisons Act. He has also to supervise the general administration of these Acts. As a District Registrar the Collector controls the administration of the Registration Department within his district.

Collector's Office

Besides land revenue, tenancy reforms and magisterial work, the Collector is in charge of civil supplies, small savings, land acquisition, scarcity and famine relief. Being intimately connected with the public any new activity that may have to be undertaken becomes the responsibility of the Collector because of the pivotal position he holds in the district administration.

The Collector's Office at Bhavnagar is divided into many branches, each of which is usually in charge of a person of the grade of Mamlatdar, Mahalkari or Aval Karkun. These branches work under the supervision of Resident Deputy Collector, who is from Deputy Collector's cadre. The Resident Deputy Collector works as Deputy Collector for the subdivision consisting of 2 talukas and 1 mahal in addition to his normal duties as Personal Assistant to the Collector. Besides him there are two more Deputy Collectors each in charge of a subdivision with headquarters at Palitana and Mahuva. There are 7 Mamlatdars in charge of 7 talukas and 5 Mahalkaris in charge of 5 mahals.

JUDICIARY

The next important department at the district level is the Judicial Department headed by the District and Sessions Judge who exercises jurisdiction in matters civil, criminal and appellate. The Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions Act was enacted to meet a long standing and widespread demand for the separation of judiciary from the executive. It has divided the magistracy into "judicial magistrates" who are subordinate to the Sessions Judge and "executive magistrates" who are subordinate to the District Magistrate. Such a separation was already in existence in the princely areas of Saurashtra as revenue officers had no judicial functions to perform except under the Land Revenue Code. The judicial set-up of the district is comprised of one District and Sessions Judge, one Civil Judge (Senior Division), and 12 Civil Judges (Junior Division).

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The office of the District Development Officer has come into existence for the first time on the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act in 1963,

when the entire machinery at the district level was democratised by transferring the powers and functions of various departments to elected bodies at the district, taluka and village levels. The District Development Officer is the Chief Executive Officer and *ex-officio* Secretary of the district panchayat. He is responsible for the proper execution of community development programme and other schemes of rural development, the details of which will be found in Chapter XIV—Local Self-Government.

OTHER DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS

The following is a list of district level officers who are administratively under the control of their own heads of department.

1 District and Sessions Judge
2 District Superintendent of Police
3 The Superintendent, Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital, and Civil Surgeon
4 Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Public Works Department
5 Executive Engineer, Public Works Department
6 Executive Engineer, Irrigation
7 Executive Engineer, Public Health
8 Executive Engineer, Civil, Port
9 Educational Inspector
10 District Treasury Officer
11 District Registrar, Co-operative Societies
12 District Employment Officer
13 Labour Officer
14 Assistant Regional Transport Officer
15 Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer
16 Quarry Inspector
17 Factory Inspector
18 District Inspector, Prohibition and Excise
19 Assistant Examiner, Local Fund Accounts
20 Manager, Government Press
21 Port Officer
22 Divisional Forest Officer
23 District Information Officer
24 District Inspector of Land Records
25 Assistant Commissioner of Sales Tax
26 District Commandant, Home Guards
27 District Commandant, N. C. C.
28 Industries Officer
29 Superintendent, District Jail

OFFICERS UNDER THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT, BHAVNAGAR

After the implementation of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 in the district and with the transfer of many departmental schemes a number of district

level functionaries have been transferred to district panchayat. Other officers besides the District Development Officer working under it are :

1. District Agriculture Officer
2. Administrative Officer (Education)
3. Assistant Director of Cottage Industries
4. District Health Officer
5. Ayurved Inspector
6. District Animal Husbandry Officer
7. District Social Welfare Officer
8. District Statistical Officer
9. Executive Engineer, Panchayats
10. Deputy Collector, Revenue
11. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies
12. District Project Officer

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

In addition to State offices there are several Central Government offices located in the city of Bhavnagar[1]. These are listed below :

1. Aerodrome Officer
2. Assistant Central Intelligence Officer
3. Appellate Assistant Commissioner, Income Tax
4. Income Tax Officer
5. Superintendent, Central Excise
6. Superintendent of Post Offices
7. Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs
8. Divisional Superintendent, Western Railway, Bhavnagar Para
9. Director in charge, Central Salt Research Institute
10. Assistant Director (Food), Central Stores Depot

1. Except the office of the Divisional Superintendent, Western Railway, which is located Bhavnagar Para, all other offices are in Bhavnagar city

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION DURING EARLY DAYS OF VALABHI KINGDOM

The earliest available records of revenue administration relate to the period when the Maitrakas ruled over Valabhi.

Agriculture being the main avocation of the people, land revenue was one of the important sources of income to the State. The agrarian system was highly developed during this period. The copper-plate grants of Maitraka Kings record gifts of land. These grants enable a close study of the various proprietory rights allowed to the donees as also the various systems of land tenure in vogue at that time and the amount of revenue assessed on these lands. The land taxes mentioned in these grants are referred to as the *udranga*, the *uparikara*, the *dhanya*, the *bhoga*, the *bhaga*, the *hiranaya* and the *visti* (forced labour).[1] The land tax paid by the proprietors was known as *udranga*, while that paid by the tenants of the soil was known as *uparikara*. The land revenue levied on the produce of the land whether paid by the proprietors or by the tenants, was commonly known as the *bhaga*. The word denotes the fixed royal share in the produce of land which generally was one-sixth of the total. The *bhaga* was a due (adeya) and it was taken either in cash or kind. The term *dhanyadeya* (literally meaning payment in corn) found in the inscriptions denotes dues paid in kind while *hiranyadeya* (meaning payment in gold) denotes dues paid in cash. *Bhoga* seems to have been a petty tax payable in form of daily presents in kind, such as fruits, flowers, vegetables, grass, etc. An officer called the *Bhugadharanika* or *bogika* was in charge of the collection of this tax. It may, therefore, be concluded that the term *bhaga* and *bhoga* covered all kinds of land revenue. Another tax called the *visti* or forced labour which later came to be known as *veth* and was enforced till it was abolished after the formation of the Saurashtra State has been referred to in most of the records of the period. It was the tax for the poor people. The State was not in a position to collect this tax in Central treasury and, therefore, it was realised partly during the tour of the King and officers of the Central Government, and partly through routine work like cleaning the villages, and government granary.

"Another important source of State revenue was the *sulka* or the tolls. The existence of this tax is inferred from the name of the officer *sulkika* who must have been in charge of its collection. The rate at which these tolls were collected is not mentioned in any of the records. The Maitraka

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1. VIRJI K. J., *Ancient History of Saurashtra*, Bombay, p. 243

records allude to two more similar taxes, viz., the *bhuta* and *vata*. Although the significance of these terms cannot be precisely explained, it is possible that the term *bhuta* meant what was produced in land, and that *vata* denoted what was procured from outside..... The *vata* possibly consisted of octroi duties levied on articles imported into the country. But it is not clear on what products the *bhuta* tax was levied. Probably it was a tax levied on all products other than those yielded from the soil. The *vartam* of which the *vartamanapala* of the Valabhi records seems to have been in charge, was another tax of a similar nature. The term *vartam* itself is found in the Arthasastra where it is referred to as a kind of road cess."[1]

The land revenue must have implied an elaborate system of land tenure with precise measurements of plots over which the State levied the tax. The grants of this period give the exact extent of the plots of land with their four boundaries specifically mentioned, "In every case a plot of land must have been described in the records by their limits bounded by another plot of land, a well, a road, a border of a particular village, a river, a pond, a tree and so forth, thus showing that Valabhi Kingdom possessed an elaborate and efficient system of land survey and measurement."[2] The standard unit the Maitrakas employed for the measurement of land was the *padavarta* which seems to be a unit in terms of footsteps.

PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

Saurashtra

In pre-Independence period when the map of India used to be shown in two colours, namely, red denoting the territory known as British India and yellow portion indicating the Princely States, there was a marked variation in the land revenue systems prevalent in these two regions. The former had more or less a uniform pattern except such divergence as arose from local variations in land tenures. No such uniformity existed in the Indian States and estates except in case of those few which adopted the British system of revenue administration.

Before examining the particular conditions of land revenue system obtaining in this district, it will be useful to have a general idea of the peninsula as a whole, which was divided into as many as 222 Princely States and estates integrated into the Union of Kathiawar later called Saurashtra, from 15th April, 1948. Owing to the feudal character of the economy in the peninsular region of Saurashtra, there was a variety of tenures and diversity in the modes of assessment and recovery which can be broadly classified as under.

(i) *Khalsa* lands comprising those areas of covenanting States and Talukas where cash assessment was levied,

1. VIRJI K. J., *Ancient History of Saurashtra*, Bombay, p. 245
2. *Ibid*, p. 246

(ii) *Khalsa* lands comprising those areas of the covenanting States and Talukas where crop-share or *bhagbatai* system prevailed, and

(iii) Non-*khalsa* lands comprising Girasdari and Barkhali areas where rent was levied mostly in the form of crop-share.

LAND TENURE SYSTEM

The land tenure system prior to 1948 may be broadly classified into *khalsa*, Girasdari and Barkhali tenures. Under the *khalsa* tenure land was held by the cultivators direct from the State, while under the other two types of tenures, they were the tenants of the Girasdars and Barkhalidars and occupied the land under their pleasure. The term Girasdar included Talukdars, Bhagdars, Bhayats and Mulgirasias, who enjoyed proprietory rights over the land. Barkhalidars included Inamdars, Jiwaidars, Dharmada or Kherati grantees and service tenures such as Chakariats and Pasayatas who were merely entitled to the use of land granted to them but did not possess any proprietory rights. The term Barkhalidar literally means a landlord whose *produce of the land remains outside the khala or the common threshing floor.* Since payment in kind was the usual mode of recovery of land revenue, the produce was first brought to the *khala* where *raj bhag* or the ruler's share of land revenue was first determined. The Barkhalidar was not required to bring the produce to the *khala*, as he had nothing to pay to the State by way of revenue.

The different categories of land tenures in existence at the time of integration were :

(i) *Khalsa Lands*—The land was held by the tenants directly from the State which recovered land revenue either in the form of crop-share or cash. The cultivators of *khalsa* lands in the smaller States were mere lessees whose occupation of land depended on the will of the ruler.

(ii) *Talukdars*—The Talukdars were small chiefs also styled Bhoomias. Under Walker's Settlement they were recognised as independent States with jurisdictional rights. Some of them, however, were non-jurisdictional. Their proprietory rights were recognised and protected against usurpation by the stronger chiefs. Talukdars were deemed to have life interest in their States, which they could neither sell nor mortgage.

(iii) *Mulgirasias*—They were the descendents of the original proprietors of villages whose possession and ownership dated prior to the establishment of the various States under whom they were found. In course of time a fiction grew up that there was a commendation of the holdings of the Mulgirasias to the chiefs, who rebestowed them to the former. This theory of commendation was used to support the escheat of the Mulgirasia's land to Darbar on the failure of his heir and collaterals as also in the event of permanent transfer by sale, gift or otherwise, as

a Mulgirasia could not make any permanent alienation of his land. His rights of alienation by mortgage and sale were in course of time regulated by the Kathiawar Political Agency Notification No. 49 of 1891, under which he could mortgage his holding to any party but could sell only to the Darbar or to his collaterals with the prior sanction of the Darbar. For the right of pre-emption always rested with the collaterals. The Mulgirasias had to pay to the Darbar a contribution known as 'Sudhara Varad' for carrying on works of general improvement in the village, usually fixed at the rate of 2 annas per acre of cultivable land.

(iv) *Bhayats*—The word literally means and includes members of the younger branch of a chief's or Talukdar's family, where the State followed the rule of primogeniture. They received grants-in-appanage as their birthright to a share in the patrimony. States like Gondal and Jasdan and later Bhavnagar followed the practice of giving the *giras* in cash, to their immediate relatives. Bhayati *giras* ordinarily reverted to the grantor in the absence of a lineal male descendent, and its alienation by mortgage or sale was generally prohibited. The Bhayats also paid 'Sudhara Varad' to the State besides discharging various political and other obligations to their chief in the forms of military and social services.

(v) *Inamdars*—They were holders of *inam* land granted by the State or the Darbar in appreciation of services rendered or for pleasure.

(vi) *Jivaidars*—Grants in *jivai* were given for maintenance without any proprietory interest in the land which lapsed to the State on the death of the grantee.

(vii) *Dharmada or Kherati holders*—Grants of land were made in favour of religious institutions. temples, etc., for their upkeep, performance of worship, etc. These grants were not liable to resumption except in case of maladministration or mismanagement.

(viii) *Chakariyats and Pasayatas*—These were lands granted to village servants in lieu of performance of service to the State and the village community. The grantee continued in possession so long as he rendered the service for which it was given.

Land Revenue in Saurashtra

Cash assessment was in vogue where settlemen. was introduced in States like Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Wadhwan, Gondal, Morvi, Junagadh, Palitana and others. Even in these States there was a great diversity of rates from area to area, the average rate of assessment varying from Rs. 2-0-2 per acre in Morvi to Rs. 3-12-5 in Palitana as against the general average of Rs. 3-2-0 per acre for all of them combined.

Crop-share system prevailed in the *khalsa* lands of the 'non-settled' States of Porbandar, Dhrangadhra, Wankaner, Dhrol, Rajkot, etc., and in the non-*khalsa* areas representing Girasdari lands in non-jurisdiction estates and talukas. Crop-share varied from ½ to 1/7 th of the produce. Besides crop-share cash assessment was also levied in respect of some of the crops in addition to a cess called *santi vero* (plough tax) recovered in some of the States.

Bhavnagar District

BHAGBATAI OR CROP-SHARE

For a long time in the past the usual mode of realisation of land revenue in the area comprising this district was crop-share which varied according to the nature of crops and fertility of soil. It was towards the close of the 19th century that States like Bhavnagar and Palitana introduced cash assessment. In the remaining States and estates, crop-share or what is known as *bhagbatai* system prevailed till merger.

The crop-share going to the ruler was known as *rajbhag* or *vaje* and so the system came to be known as *bhagbatai* or *vaje*. *Bhagbatai* was again of two types, namely, (1) *mela bhag* and (2) *chokha bhag*. Where *vaje* included numerous kinds of levies along with crop-share it was known as *mela bhag* system. The *bhagbatai* in which there was no other levy but which included only a definite share of the produce was known as *chokha bhag* system. In both the systems, however, *santi vero*, i.e., a plough tax was levied on the acreage of land in possession of cultivators. A *santi* was also called a holding varying in extent from sixty *bighas* to a hundred *bighas* according to the fertility of soil. The share in crop ranged in different States and estates from one-half to one-third in Kharif crops and one-fourth to one-fifth in Rabi or irrigated crops.

Vighoti or Cash Assessment

The *vighoti* (cash assessment) system replaced the *bhagbatai* (crop-share) system in Bhavnagar and Palitana in the year 1872 A.D. (Samvat year 1928 and 1929). Previous to this, the Bhavnagar State had *ijara* (farming) system. The settlement reports of the former Bhavnagar State show that the Darbar's share differed in different areas. Making all allowances, it can be stated that the average share of the Darbar was not less than 35 per cent of the gross produce in the *bhagbatai* system. The farming or *ijara* system of recovery of land revenue in kind was gradually replaced by the *khatabandi* or lump sum cash assessment based on the average of the last few years.

The original settlement which was then carried out did not cover the entire area of the State. It was first introduced in six mahals, namely, Dascroi, Botad, Umrala, Gadhada, Sihor and Talaja, and later extended to other areas.

Before the introduction of cash assessment Palitana State had a system of its own. There was no survey but as early as 1872 A.D., the State fixed the amount for sixteen annas recovery of previous two years. The estimate of the year in terms of anna valuation on the basis of crop produce was made every year. Recoveries were then made in proportion to the value given to that village in that particular year. This system did not involve remissions and suspensions, but had the advantage of regulating the demand according to the yield of the year in which collection was made.

As far as other smaller States and estates were concerned, Lathi State had a *chokha bhag* system in crop-share, and a cash levy on sugar-cane, vegetables, carrots and lucerne. No cash *vero* was levied from cultivators of the State. In Vallabhipur (Vala) the revenue system known as *bhagbatai* was adopted and cultivators paid a fixed share in cotton, wheat, *bajari, jowar* and other produce, and cash assessment on irrigated crops.

In the Girasdari villages of the Agency areas, where *bhagbatai* system prevailed there was no other levy except a fixed share of the produce. It was known as *chokha bhag* system. *Santi vero* or plough tax was also levied on the basis of acreage of land in possession of cultivators.

Nature of Interest in Land

Full or partial occupancy rights called *chav*, *buta* or *vechan haks* were enjoyed by agriculturists in States like Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Gondal, Dhrangadhra, Morvi, Limbdi, Wadhwan and Jasdan. But in the rest of the States, the cultivators were mere tenants-at-will who could be evicted at any time by the landlord. The rulers, Talukdars and Girasdars possessed full and absolute rights over the lands on which the tenants paid crop-share which varied from one crop to another and from irrigated to non-irrigated. Over and above the payment of assessment in kind, the tenants laboured under the incidence of many petty and obnoxious cesses and taxes coupled with an obligation to render personal service known as *veth* or forced labour. A census of different cesses that were prevailing in various parts revealed that these were more than 90 in number. This phenomenon naturally resulted in rack-renting, arbitrary evictions and forced labour.

Under these circumstances the immediate problems the Government of Saurashtra was called upon to face were (i) grant of permanent rights to tenants over the lands held by them, (ii) conversion of crop-share into cash assessment in respect of *khalsa* and non-*khalsa* land and (iii) establishment of a uniform system of land tenure. The business-like manner in which these problems were solved will be evident from a series of ordinances and enactments passed by that government soon after it assumed the reins of office.

Land Policy of Saurashtra Government

Immediately after integration, various steps were taken by the Government of Saurashtra to rationalise the land revenue system and bring

it on par with the Bombay system by adopting the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 as amended from time to time with certain modifications. In its land policy declaration, it announced that

(1) all forced labour (*veth*), *lagas* and *letries* wherever levied in addition to the crop-share or cash assessment were abolished forthwith. This declaration was followed by a proclamation on 15th April, 1948 conferring heritable and transferable rights on all the cultivators of *khalsa* villages without charging occupancy price. This made overnight all the cultivators of such areas occupants within the meaning of the Land Revenue Code.

(2) Crop-share (*bhagbatai*) system in all *khalsa* areas was ordered to be substituted by cash assessment (*vighoti*), as the existence of crop-share at one place and of cash assessment at the other in respect of lands enjoying similar rights was somewhat perplexing. In the circumstances then prevailing, it was not feasible to introduce scientific survey and settlement operations immediately. An *ad hoc* lump sum assessment was, therefore, fixed on the average of recoveries of the last fifteen years, 1933 to 1947.

(3) Arbitrary cesses recovered in addition to the normal land revenue from cultivators were abolished from *khalsa* as well as non-*khalsa* areas of the State.

(4) Diversity of revenue laws and orders was done away with by the adoption of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, which was made applicable to the State by an Ordinance passed in 1948.

(5) A separate department was created for the unification of the survey and settlement operations.

INTRODUCTION OF CASH ASSESSMENT

After the integration of States, the Saurashtra Government attempted to reduce the diversities and inequalities in the basis of assessment by adopting the following three methods in different categories of villages.

(1) cash assessment by regular scientific survey; (2) lump sum assessment worked out on the average of the crop-share for the period 1933-47 in *khalsa* villages where *bhagbatai* prevailed before integration, and (3) assessment calculated on the arithmetical averages of assessments leviable in the surrounding *khalsa* villages for the purpose of the Land Reforms Act and the Barkhali Abolition Act.

Accordingly 383 villages (of which 24 were non-*khalsa*) of this district were settled by the first method, 385 *khalsa* villages came under lump sum cash assessment and in the remaining non-*khalsa* villages assessment was based on arithmetical average of the surrounding *khalsa* areas. As a result

of these measures land assessment was rationalised, all intermediaries on land were removed, and the Ryotwari system of land tenures introduced in the whole of Saurashtra.

INTERIM MEASURES FOR PROTECTION OF TENANTS

The Government of Saurashtra also initiated far-reaching measures in non-*khalsa* lands by tackling the problem of tenancy and affording the tenants all protection against eviction.

The Saurashtra Tenants Protection Ordinance No. XXII of 1948 was issued to protect tenants from arbitrary eviction. It provided that in case a landlord required land for personal cultivation the tenant who was the holder of that land should be served with a notice six months in advance. This ordinance safeguarded tenants against arbitrary eviction but disputes regarding rent still continued as there was no provision for the regulation of rent. Government, therefore, promulgated another ordinance, viz., The Saurashtra Zamindars' and Tenants' Settlement of Rent Disputes Ordinance No. XXVI of 1948 which empowered Mamlatdars to take charge of the crops in disputes and Deputy Collectors to terminate rent on the basis of the *Anida* settlement under which land holders were enjoined not to evict tenants and to recover rent not exceeding 1/4th and 1/5th share in unirrigated and irrigated crops respectively. The Saurashtra Protection of Tenants (Amendment) Ordinance No. XXXVI of 1948, passed thereafter, provided *inter alia* for the appointment of joint committees of land holders and tenants for settlement of disputes relating to ejectment of tenants and recovery of rent. It also provided that instead of the 1/4th and 1/5th share, the formula of rent agreed to by the representatives of both the parties should be taken as a basis for fixing rent. This ordinance also did not help in lessening the tension that already existed in the relations between the tenants and the land-holders and it was feared that there would be large scale evictions of tenants. To avoid such a situation, the Saurashtra Temporary Postponement of Eviction Ordinance No. XXVIII of 1949 was issued. This ordinance provided that notice given by land-holders under the Saurashtra Zamindars' and Tenants' Settlement of Rent Disputes Ordinance of 1948 shall not be deemed to terminate tenancy. Even this ordinance failed to solve the problem of eviction. Ultimately, government promulgated the Saurashtra Gharkhed Tenancy Settlement and Agricultural Lands Ordinance No. XLI of 1949 repealing all the previous ordinances. It made provision for the grant of certain quantity of land for personal cultivation to the land-holders declaring the tenants on the remaining land as protected tenants. The ordinance empowered government to assume management of estates in case of disputes between landlord and tenants. It also provided that government should fix (1) the assessment for gharkhed and non-gharkhed land and (2) the basis of rent payable by tenants to land-holders. The ordinance provided for a levy of four annas per acre from land-holders in respect of their gharkhed lands and of 12½ per cent of the revenue on non-gharkhed

lands. Assessment was determined on the basis of principles laid down by government which provided that (1) cash rent would be levied where cash rent existed at any time in the past, (2) if there was no cash rent but if *udhad* or lump sum was fixed at any time, rent would be levied according to such *udhad*, (3) if there was neither cash assessment nor *udhad* in such villages and only crop-share prevailed, cash rent would be determined on the basis of the average of the cash assessment leviable in surrounding *khalsa* villages. The rate, however, was subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 3 per *bigha* of *jirayat* land and Rs. 6 per *bigha* of *bagayat* land. This ordinance was liked neither by the landlord nor by the tenant who had still to face eviction notices in case the land-holder chose to have that particular land for gharkhed as he was at liberty to choose any tenant for eviction. Land-holders also disliked this ordinance because it failed to permit gharkhed land for all of them and those who were entitled to get it thought that the area allotted was too small.

All these were temporary measures, more or less in the nature of palliatives, which emphasised the urgency of introducing agrarian reforms of a far reaching character reviewed in the section that follows.

LAND REFORMS

Before Independence there were various terms and conditions called tenures upon which land was held by the agriculturists and others. These tenures were a product of a long evolution determined by the geographical, economical, social and political conditions prevailing at different times of history. In former times the bulk of revenue from land was derived in the form of crop-share which was subsequently commuted into cash rent. The Muslim rulers introduced a system of intermediaries who were small revenue farmers, who collected revenue on behalf of government. With the disintegration of Mughal Empire, these farmers became independent and claimed proprietary right in the soil. Marathas created a hierarchy of graded officials in districts and remunerated them by grant of land. In the result, a large number of land tenures developed in different parts of the State. At times government alienated revenue of a certain estate or tract of land in favour of some person of importance or to provide funds for special purpose. All these tenures were continued till they were abolished on Independence.

With the advent of Independence, these intermediaries were considered outmoded from the view point of social justice. Land tenures have proved more or less an impediment to the maximum utilisation of the agricultural resources of the country. For establishing a progressive and healthy pattern of peasant proprietorship, it was imperative to abolish various tenures which were feudal in character, created tenancy-at-will and deprived the peasant of the fruits of his own labour. For the maximum exploitation of land, it was also necessary to remove the intermediaries and to encourage the tiller of the land to expend all his energies on stepping up agricultural

production. With this end in view, various measures of land reforms and tenancy protection were initiated and implemented by the government of Saurashtra and Bombay immediately after Independence for the abolition of Girasdari, Barkhali, Talukdaris and other tenures to stabilise the peasantry on land. These will now be reviewed first for the Saurashtra area and then for the adjoining areas forming part of the British district of Ahmedabad now included in Bhavnagar district to give a comprehensive idea of the implementation of agarian reforms in various parts of this district.

SAURASHTRA AREA

The former State of Saurashtra was the result of integration of 222 States and estates, some of which were first class State having a system of progressive administration, whereas the majority of them were small principalities. After the merger of States into the United State of Kathiawar subsequently called Part B State of Saurashtra, the problem of bringing about all the land tenure systems—Girasdari as well as Barkhali—on a uniform basis came to the forefront. As seen in the preceding paras this was tackled by the Saurashtra Government by conferment of full occupancy rights in all villages which were previously under the direct jurisdiction of the covenanting States. However, the existence of intermediary tenures of Barkhalidars and Girasdars created an anomalous situation inasmuch as their tenants did not acquire the occupancy rights conferred on their counterparts in *khalsa* lands who enjoyed the benefits of paying direct assessment to government, security of tenure, fixity of rent and the right to transfer the lands cultivated by them. Thus out of the 4,400 and odd villages of the former Saurashtra State, the cultivators of nearly 2,700 villages obtained full occupancy rights immediately on the formation of the new State, while in the rest of the 1,700 villages covering nearly ⅓ of the area, there still persisted different categories of landlords and systems of land revenue. The cultivators under the Girasdari and Barkhali tenures were mere tenants-at-will except in such cases known as *chav* or *buta hak* which gave them some security of tenure. For removing the sense of insecurity, restoration of uniformity and also creation of an urge for better production, abolition of Girasdari and Barkhali system of land tenures was considered imperative. The Saurashtra Agrarian Reforms Commission appointed for the purpose after taking the necessary evidence and a full study of the probelm in the various parts of the State recommended the abolition of certain tenures as a result of which following enactments were passed.

The Saurashtra Land Reforms Act of 1951

This Act which ultimately put an end to the Girasdari system, enabled the tenants to become the occupants of the land held by them on the payment of compensation to the Girasdars for the extinguishment of their rights. The Girasdars were allotted land for personal cultivation (Gharkhed). All cesses, *haks*, taxes, services imposed by Girasdars were also abolished.

The Saurashtra Barkhali Abolition Act of 1951

According to the provisions of this Act, all rights, titles, or interests of the Barkhalidars in agricultural lands were brought to an end and occupancy rights were conferred on all the tenants without payment of any compensation to the Barkhalidars. Land was allotted to the Barkhalidars also for personal cultivation.

The Saurashtra Estates Acquisition Act of 1952

This Act was the third and the last in the series of land reforms undertaken by the Government of Saurashtra for the extinguishment of right, title and interests of the Girasdars and Barkhalidars in non-agricultural assets which vested in the State from a specified date. It also provided for the payment of compensation for the abolition of those rights.

OTHER MEASURES

These principal measures of land reforms were accompanied by a number of ancillary measures which were no less important to stabilise the peasantry on land. These were :

(i) The Saurashtra Prohibition of Leases of Agricultural Lands Act of 1953 puts an end to absentee landlordism in any form by prohibiting leases of agricultural land except in case of military personnel, widows, minors, the infirm and the disabled.

(ii) The Saurashtra Prevention of Fragmentation and Regulation of Holdings Act was passed in 1954. It fixes the minimum area necessary for the profitable cultivation of a separate plot and limits the maximum size of a holding to three economic holdings which has been fixed at 32 acres for this district.

The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceilings Act, 1960, has also been made applicable to this district.

Bombay State Area

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act

In former Bombay Province there was no special law regulating the relations between landlords and tenants. The relations between the two were mostly governed by mutual contracts or local usage and customs. The provisions of Sections of 83 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 constituted the tenancy law of the State. With a view to safeguard the rights of tenants, the first tenancy legislation, called the Bombay Tenancy Act, was enacted in 1939. This Act introduced a new concept of protected tenant covering those tenants who held land continously for a period of not less than six years. This Act gave to the tenants for the first time, fixity of tenure, a ceiling on rentals, rights in house sites and trees and protection from eviction

under certain circumstances. In 1948, the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 was enacted to improve the condition of tenants still further. Another important piece of legislation which proved a turning point in the position of tenants was the Bombay Act XIII of 1956 which provided that on the 1st April, 1957 described as the 'Tillers' Day', every tenant whether permanent, protected or ordinary, was deemed to have purchased from the landlord the land leased to him subject to the condition that the tenant cultivated the land personally and his total holding did not exceed ceiling areas and the purchase price did not exceed 200 times the assessment. This Act was also amended from time to time by the Bombay Acts XV and XXXVIII of 1957, LXIII of 1958, Gujarat Act XVI of 1960 and XXVII of 1961.

Section 32 of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 as amended by Act No. XIII of 1956, laid down that, " On the first day of April 1957 (hereinafter referred to as 'the tillers' day') every tenant shall, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding sections, be deemed to have purchased from his landlord, free of all encumbrances subsisting thereon on the said day, the land held by him as tenant. "

Tenancy reforms provided for making the tenants occupants of land held by them as tenants and issue of occupancy certificates after full amount of purchase price was received and paid to the landlord in instalments ranging from 1 to 12.

Under the aforesaid Act, landlords whose annual income was Rs. 1,500 or less and who held less than an economic holding were protected and the tenants of such persons did not become owners. Under the latest amendment made to the Act after the formation of Gujarat State, such landlords who came under this exemption had a right of resumption for bonafide personal cultivation by applying to the Mamlatdars before 31st March, 1962 to establish their claim. In the event of their failure to do so, the tenants became the owners in such cases also on payment of all the instalments payable to wards purchase price. The total purchase price thus fixed for payment by tenants comes to Rs. 830,000 by the end of 1966, out of which an amount of Rs. 250,000 became due for payment whereof an amount of Rs. 166,000 has been recovered and out of that amount Rs. 146,000 have been paid to the landlords.

After the settlement of the relations of the landlords and tenants of *khalsa* land under the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948, Government of Bombay proceeded to settle the relations between the State and the tenure holders by enacting separate legislations for each non-ryotwari tenure. While abolishing the tenures, the tenure holders or others actually on the land are not dispossessed (except in case of former Saurashtra State area, where separate lagislation was passed) but are allowed to continue the same in their possession on or without payment of occupancy price. The scope

of the various tenure abolition laws enacted by the former Bombay State and the present Gujarat State has been restricted primarily to the abolition of various *inams* and non-ryotwari tenures and to the conversion of lands held on these tenures into lands in the occupancy tenures recognised by the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879. On the abolition of special tenures, the lands affected by the Abolition Acts become *khalsa* ryotwari land liable to the payment of land revenue in accordance with the provision of the Land Revenue Code. Recovery of land revenue has generally started in respect of all these lands. The implementation of the Land Tenure Abolition Acts generally may be divided into two parts, viz., (1) disposal of the compensation cases and (2) decision of the occupancy rights conferred by law on tenants. Work has been completed in respect of all the Tenure Abolition Act except the Jagir Abolition Act under which there are yet some compensation cases to be decided. The permanent and inferior holders generally became occupants without payment of occupancy price except in case of Talukdari tenure in which cases the inferior holder has to pay occupancy price equal to 3 times the assessment. The names of those who acquire occupancy rights have been entered in the Records of Rights. In case of tenants of Jagirdars or their cadets, occupancy price was payable at only 6 times the assessment within the prescribed time. The total purchase price thus fixed for payment by tenants came to Rs. 2,150 lakhs. Out of the latter amount, a sum of Rs. 967 lakhs became due for payment, of which Rs. 716 lakhs have been recovered and Rs. 654 lakhs paid to landlords.

The inquiries under sections 32-P of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act authorising the Collectors to resume and dispose of lands where the purchase of any land became ineffective were stayed in 1964 and the Act was amended so as to give one more chance to the tenants whose purchase had become ineffective on account of the refusal to purchase the land. One year was allowed to such tenants for exercising their rights to purchase. Similarly where purchases had become ineffective for non-payment of the instalments of the purchase price, more time was given to the tenants for paying up the instalments.

Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960

After the bifurcation of the State of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra in 1960, the Government of Gujarat promulgated an important Act known as the Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act of 1960 with a view to fixing a ceiling on land holdings and to provide for the acquisition and disposal of surplus agricultural lands. The area of the State was divided into different classes and a ceiling area was prescribed for each of them. No person is entitled to hold whether as owner or tenant land in excess of the ceiling so prescribed. The excess land thus acquired by government was paid for according to its assessment value which was different for different classes of lands.

The classes of land and the ceilings prescribed for each are indicated below.

STATEMENT XI·1

Ceilings Prescribed for Different Classes of Land

Class of local area	Dry crop land (Ceiling area in acres)	Rice land	Seasonally irrigated land	Perennialy irrigated land
1	2	3	4	5
Class A ..	56	38	38	19
" B ..	60	40	40	20
" C ..	72	48	48	24
" D ..	80	54	54	27
" E ..	84	56	56	28
" F ..	96	64	64	32
" G ..	108	72	72	36
" H ..	120	80	80	40
" I ..	132	88	88	44

Source : The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960, p. 27

All land in the villages of Bhavnagar taluka and the mahals of Vallabhipur and Gogha were grouped under G class. The ceilings prescribed for these areas are 108 acres for dry crop land, 72 acres for seasonally irrigated land and 36 acres for perennialy irrigated land. Agricultural lands in the remaining talukas/mahals of the district were grouped under F class. The ceilings prescribed for these acres are : 96 acres for dry crop land, 64 acres for seasonally irrigated land and 32 acres for perennialy irrigated land.

As a majority of land-holders in this district are small cultivators, not much surplus land could be acquired under this Act. By April, 1966, only 1,796 acres of surplus land were acquired by the government, of which 472 acres were given for cultivation on *ek-sali* basis, i.e., on lease for one year. Cultivators possessing surplus land numbered 119, of whom 60 were awarded Rs. 4,243 by way of compensation by April, 1966.

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

Much, however, remained to be done to bring the land revenue system on par with the areas formerly included in British districts. Survey and settlement operations had to be carried out. Unsurveyed lands had to be surveyed and surveyed lands had to be resurveyed to confirm to new standards. Soil had to be classified, and settled on scientific basis so as to remove existing disparities in the rates of assessment and bring down the incidence of land revenue to a reasonable level. To this end, the State of Saurashtra set-up a separate Department of Survey and Settlement under the Director of Land Records and Settlement with Superintendent of Survey in charge of survey operations and District Inspectors of Land Records in charge of survey and land records of districts.

The district of Bhavnagar (formerly known as Gohilwad) which consisted of 1,068 villages prior to 1st July, 1959 now comprise 907 villages distributed in 7 talukas and 5 mahals.

The following statement gives the number of villages surveyed together with the years of original and revision surveys.

STATEMENT XI.2

Original and Revision Surveys

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Original survey: Villages	Original survey: Year of survey	Revision survey: Villages	Revision survey: Year of revision
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Bhavnagar	57	1873	48	1927
2	Botad	35	1876	31	1928
3	Kundla	68	1878	65	1936
		2	1913		
4	Mahuva	125	1880	92	1936
5	Palitana	13	1877		
		8	1877	11	1928-38
6	Sihor	57	1877		
		2	1909	45	1931
7	Talaja	95	1877	68	1936
		3	1882		
8	Gadhada	34	1875	29	1929
		3	1929		
		2	1906		
		3	1893		
9	Gariadhar	6	1877	7	1907-36
		10	1807		
		2	1904		
10	Jafrabad	12	1875	13	1917-32
		7	1929		
11	Lathi	16	1875	15	1928
		5	1929		
12	Liliya	38	1875	38	1937
13	Rajula	59	1877	56	1938
		2	1907		
		5	1873		
14	Umrala	28	1876	26	1928
15	Vallabhipur	7	1876	7	1927-29
		2	1909		
		3	1917		

Source :

Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Ahmedabad

LAND SURVEY

The method of survey used during the former State regime was to have a traverse laid down on the village boundaries with the help of theodolite. An *adhar* line with one or two supplementary *adhar* lines was then marked, whereafter detailed survey of each field by chain and cross-staff method was carried out. The areas of each survey number and its subdivisions and for each class of land comprised therein were separately entered in the Land Records under an indicative number, i.e., survey number, the numbering of subdivisions being subordinate to the number of parent survey number.

In case of former Baroda State area, the method of survey adopted was the *chok mapni* system according to which the whole area to be surveyed was

laid down in *choks* of 32 chains which were further subdivided into smaller blocks of 4 chains by 8 chains, each chain being equal to 80 feet. The rest of the method was the same as above.

In the Union Area[1] of Gogha mahal, there is no change in respect of survey and settlement since 1947. The lands of each individual holding in this area have been surveyed and designated as survey numbers and their subdivisions as *pot hissas*, *pot* numbers or *hissa* numbers. Their areas are worked out separately and recorded.

All the unsurveyed areas have now been surveyed and there is no area in the district now which is unsurveyed.

CLASSIFICATION OF SOILS

Soils of villages of former Bhavnagar State merged in this district were already classified. The system of classification in Bhavnagar State was the same as the Gujarat classification system according to which different classification values of soil subject to the standard valuation of 16 annas are worked out after taking into account the texture and depth of soils and their merits and demerits. A few villages of Nawanagar (Jamnagar), Baroda and Junagadh States are also included in this district where also the system of classification was the same as Gujarat classification system. In respect of sub-soil factor, however, the system followed in Nawanagar (Jamnagar) State was of *Panikasar* (*kos*-rate) according to which in addition to soil assessment, water assessment was levied at a rate per *kos* per four acres. In case of former Junagadh State villages, an *ad hoc* system of soil classification was adopted, according to which soils were divided into two main classes, viz., 'Baret' (dry crop) and 'Peet' (well irrigated). Each of these classes of land was subdivided into Sarvotkrisht, Aval, Doyam, Soyam and Kanishta. The remaining villages of the various former States included in this district were not classified. In the year 1955-56 the Land Records Department of Saurashtra Government evolved a system of classification, which, though mostly analogous to the Gujarat classification system, slightly differed from it in respect of soil classes, and their values and details of sub-soil classification and average classification values. Instead of working out average classification values for each survey number or its subdivision, the areas with different classification values in the same survey number or subdivision were converted into area of 16 *annas* classification value. Unlike Gujarat classification system, well irrigated lands according to Saurashtra classification system were treated as *bagayat* lands. The sub-soil classification system was more or less similar to that of Gujarat classification system, but differed from the latter in so far as sub-soil classification scale was not related to soil classification values and 4 or 3 acres of land, as the case may be, were considered as irrigable from each *kos* or water bag on the existing wells instead of all the lands in

1. Union Areas = Areas forming part of the pre-Independence districts of the Bombay Province.

the zone or 'Vaga' adjudged to have this facility. The above system of classification is continued, after States' reorganisation for villages where soils were not classified before or for villages where the soils, though classified before, are required to be re-classified. However, where soils of a part of a village are classified before and those of the remaining part are to be classified, the system followed in the part of the village is adopted for the rest of the village to maintain uniformity. The classification work is in progress and will be completed as a Plan scheme before the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

In case of Gogha mahal the soils of the survey numbers and subdivisions are classified for the purposes of land revenue and land revenue settlement under the Bombay Land Revenue Code. The original settlement in this mahal was introduced in 1860. It was revised in the year 1892. Second revision settlement has been introduced in this mahal in 1924-25, whereafter, no further revision settlement has taken place.

ASSESSMENT AND SETTLEMENT

The position regarding settlement in the villages of the former Bhavnagar and other States is shown below.

STATEMENT XI·3

Settlement Details by Taluka/Mahal

Taluka/Mahal	Former State	No. of villages	Year of original settlement	Year of revision settlement
1	2	3	4	5
Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	54	1872-73	1927
Sihor	"	44	"	1931
		2	N. A.	1922-23
Botad	"	33	1872-73	1928
Gadhada	"	28	"	1929
	Nawanagar	2	N. A.	1907
	Baroda	2	"	1907-08
Kundla	Bhavnagar	65	1872-83	1936
	Junagadh	2	N. A.	1912
Mahuva	Bhavnagar	94	1872-83	1937
Talaja	"	74	"	1936
Palitana	Palitana	11	Village 6	1931
			" 4	1928-29
			" 1	1935
Umrala	Bhavnagar	27	1872-73	1928-29
Vallabhipur	Vala	8	"	"
	Bombay	2	N. A.	1922-23
Gariadhar	Bhavnagar	6	1872-73	1935
	Baroda	2	N. A.	1907-12
Total ..	—	.. 479		

N. A. = Not available

Besides *khalsa* villages, some *ex*-Girasdari or *ex*-Barkhali villages were also settled. As the pitch of assessment of land revenue in Saurashtra was considered higher than that of similarly settled areas in the former Bombay State, the Government of Bombay sanctioned with effect from 1958-59, remission of assessment in excess of the rates of assessment obtaining in the comparable union areas (formerly comprising region of Kutch) and allowing assessment to continue as it was where it was lower.

The above orders were issued in respect of the villages which are deemed settled under Section 177-R of Bombay Land Revenue Code as adopted in Saurashtra. For other villages and the areas not so deemed settled, Government of Bombay framed rules under section 52 of Land Revenue Code for achieving the same object. According to this rule the villages to be dealt with were to be formed into homogeneous groups as far as possible in respect of (i) physical configuration, (ii) climate and rainfall, (iii) prices and (iv) yield of principal crops. For each of these groups some analogous area of the State of Bombay was to be ascertained, to which the group could be compared on the basis of homogeneity of soil and crop pattern. The respective rates of assessment of dry crop and rice lands in each group were to be fixed by the Collector having regard to the respective rates of assessment of such classes of land prevailing in the comparable union area. For lands irrigated by wells, the rate of assessment per acre was not to exceed 20 times the rate for lands classed as dry crop in the same group; and for lands irrigated from tanks or canals, the rate was not to exceed two times the rate fixed for land irrigated by wells in the same group as stated above. While fixing these rates, the Collector was to have due regard to the rate or amount of assessment payable at the time in respect of the land, or holding as the case may be.

Where lands were classified, rates were fixed per acre of 16 annas valued in the particular sub-class. In the case of an individual survey number or its subdivision, the rate was based on the quality of the land in terms of the best land, that is land of sixteen annas quality. Where the lands were not classified, the rule provides for classification of lands into dry crop, rice and irrigated and for further sub-classification of each of these classes into good, medium or inferior on a consideration of the yield of the principle crops produced and the classification that may have already been adopted for the purpose of fixation of *udhad* or *vighoti* after integration.

The rates of assessment fixed under this rule were to remain in force for ten years from the revenue year from which rates so fixed were applicable or till the lands were settled under Chapter VIII-A of the Land Revenue Code, whichever was earlier

FUNCTIONS OF THE LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

The Land Records Department in Saurashtra was created in the year 1949 and integrated with Bombay State Land Records Department in 1956. It is now a separate department of Gujarat State and is an adjunct to the

Revenue Department. At the State level the department is headed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records. For administrative purposes, the State is divided into circles each in charge of a Superintendent of Land Records, who has under him Inspectors of Land Records functioning at the district level.

The functions of the Department of Survey and Settlement are (1) to maintain all survey, classification and settled records up to date by keeping careful notes of all changes, and for this purpose to carry out field operations preliminary to incorporation of the changes in the survey records, (2) to collect and provide statistics necessary for the sound administration of all matters connected with land, (3) to help reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in revenue and civil courts by providing reliable survey and other records, (4) to supervise the preparation and maintenance of Record of Rights and of the periodical inspection of boundary marks, (5) to conduct periodical revision and settlement operations, (6) to organise and carry out village site and city surveys on an extensive scale and arrnage for their proper maintenance, (7) to undertake special surveys for private individuals and public bodies (such as survey of *inam* and other non-*khalsa* villages and lands), surveys in connection with railways, municipal and local projects, town planning schemes, and survey for the Defence and other government departments, (8) to maintain up to date village maps, reprint them and arrange for their distribution to various government departments for administrative purpose and for sale to the public, and (9) to train revenue officers in survey and settlement matters.

The District Inspector of Land Records, Bhavnagar, is the principal officer in charge of the Land Records Department in the district. He is a gazetted officer (of a Mamlatdar's rank) appointed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records and is directly subordinate to the Superintendent of Land Records, Rajkot Circle, Rajkot, in all technical matters. He is also subordinate to the Collector of Bhavnagar and has to carry out all administrative orders of the Collector in the matter of survey and land records. He is assisted by (a) one District Surveyor and fifteen Taluka Surveyors at talukas/mahals, (b) Headquarters Assistant and other staff of the District Survey Office, (c) 45 Circle Inspectors including Circle Officers. The Circle Inspectors were, however, transferred to the district panchayat with effect from 1st April, 1963, i.e., the inception of the Panchayati Raj.

The staff shown under (a) and (b) works directly under the District Inspector of Land Records and that under (c) works under the control of the Collector.

City and Village Site Survey

Survey was begun only in Bhavnagar town in 1890 during the *ex*-State regime, but there was no village site survey in the district. Bhavnagar city

has been selected for city survey work taken up during the first year of the Third Plan, i.e., 1961-62.

Special Staff

In addition to the normal set-up of the department, there is a separate staff for the work of original and revision survey and classification of soils in the areas which are unsurveyed or are due for revision survey. After the integration of Saurashtra State into the bigger Bombay State, the post of Superintendent of Land Records, Rajkot, was created for regular land records work in that region and the special survey and classification staff working under Survey Mamlatdars was also placed under him. Later on when the scheme of survey and classification in Saurashtra and Kutch was included in the Second Five Year Plan, the working of the entire scheme in these areas was transferred to a separate Superintendent of Land Records, Rajkot, specially appointed for the purpose.

Record of Rights

The Record of Rights was introduced *pari passu* with other measures in all the talukas and mahals which were so far unsurveyed. The areas adopted for the purpose were as per *vahivat* or customary usage as recorded in the village records. The Record of Rights work is prepared and maintained by the Revenue Department staff. After survey, the Land Record Department supplies the *mapni* or survey register and map to the revenue officers for compilation of the Record of Rights. According to Section 135-B (1) of the Land Revenue Code, the Record of Rights contains the following particulars : (a) name of all persons who are holders, occupants, owners, or mortgagees of the land or assignees of the rent or revenue thereof; (b) the nature and extent of the respective interest of such persons and conditions or liabilities attached thereto; (c) rent or revenue (if any), payable by or to any such persons; and (d) such other particulars as the State Government may prescribe under rules made in this behalf. The State Government has now applied the law to all tenancies also under Section 135(b)(2). Any acquisition of right in land is to be reported to the village officer by the persons acquiring it, unless it is registered under Land Revenue Code, Section 135-C.

Village maps have been drawn (generally on a scale of 1″=20 chains) for all the surveyed villages showing survey numbers and their boundary marks and other topographical details such as roads, rivers, *nullahs*, forests, hills, from the detailed survey *tippans* of individual survey numbers. From these village maps, taluka and district maps were constructed either on a scale of 1″=2 miles or 1″=4 miles. However, a district map requires frequent revision due to territorial changes, and development work such as construction of new roads, canals, railways, hospitals, *bundhs*, dams, etc., under various plan schemes.

Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses Connected with it

Land revenue is one of the important sources of income in the district. The following statement shows the demand and collection of land revenue since 1960-61.

STATEMENT XI.4

Demand and Collection of Land Revenue

(IN Rs.)

Year	Gross consolidated demand	Collection	Remission of demand cancelled or written of	Balance
1	2	3	4	5
1960–61	6,613,071	3,662,233	9,815	2,212,782
1961–62	6,408,082	3,837,562	54,003	2,192,105
1962–63	6,055,709	2,280,606	3,084	2,635,546
1963–64	7,634,004	4,197,243	326,798	2,261,509

NOTE :
The figures of suspension are not included in the above statement

Source :
Annual Land Revenue Administration Reports, 1960-61 to 1963-64

The statement shows a general trend towards decline of gross consolidated demand between the years 1960-61 and 1962-63, and a steep rise in 1963-64, as compared to the previous year. The decrease during the earlier period was mainly due to the failure of monsoon and scarcity conditions prevailing in the district. The collection of land revenue also presents more or less a similar trend.

Local Fund Cess

The Saurashtra Local Development Fund Act was enacted in 1956. Section 4 of the Act provided for the levy of a cess at the rate of three annas on every rupee of land revenue payable by an occupant. The Act established a fund known as the Local Development Fund to which the amount of cess realised was credited. The Government of Saurashtra used to allot to every district panchayat such sums as it deemed fit out of this fund. This cess was continued after the merger of Saurashtra in Bombay State. Later on, when the district panchayats were renamed District Local Boards in 1960, consequent upon the application of the Bombay District Local Boards Act, 1923 to the region of Saurashtra of which Bhavnagar district formed part, this cess was levied under Section 93 of that Act. The local fund cess was formerly collected by the government along with land revenue. After the implementation of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 the function of collecting land revenue and local fund cess has been transferred to the panchayats in 1963. This cess which was levied at the rate of 20 paise on every rupee of land revenue is recovered at the rate of 50 paise since 1st July, 1966 under Section 169 of the Panchayats Act.

The proceeds of the cess which are credited into Government Treasury are handed over to the district panchayats by government after deducting collection charges. Against a total sum of Rs. 665,032 leviable in the year 1963-64 the actual collection in the district came to Rs. 520,969.

The gram/nagar panchayat also levies a cess which is different from the local fund cess at a rate not exceeding 25 paise in a rupee payable to State Government as land revenue. This cess can be increased up to 100 paise under certain circumstances for undertaking certain specified works or projects for the benefit of the community under sub-section (*2*) of Section 181 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act.

Irrigation Cess

An irrigation cess was hitherto collected only on the areas actually irrigated. The Irrigation Act, however, provides for the levy of a cess on the irrigable command. From the year 1964-65 a nominal irrigation cess of Rs. 2.50 per acre is being levied on all the lands in irrigable command irrespective of the fact whether water is taken or not with a view to induce recalcitrant cultivators to take up irrigation. The total collection of this cess in the year 1964-65 amounted to Rs. 533.

THE BHOODAN MOVEMENT

The Bhoodan or voluntary land gift movement was conceived by Acharya Vinoba Bhave early in 1951, when he was touring Telengana district in the State of Andhra Pradesh, where acute agrarian unrest was caused by land hunger on the part of cultivators. In appealing to the landlords for donation of land, Acharya Vinoba Bhave has been applying the Gandhian principle of peaceful persuasion.

Describing the aims of the movement, the Acharya said, "In a just and equitable order of society land must belong to all. That is why I do not beg for gifts but demand a share to which the poor are rightly entitled."[1] The main objective of the movement is to "propagate the right thought by which social and economic maladjustments can be corrected without serious conflicts." He describes the Bhoodan movement as a kind of *satyagraha* or peaceful revolution.

The Bhoodan movement sponsored by Vinobaji was initiated in this district and the other districts of Saurashtra as early as 1953. As the existing laws and rules prohibited the transfer of cultivable lands gifted by the donors in Bhoodan, the Government of Saurashtra enacted a special law, viz., The Saurashtra Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1953, to facilitate the donation of land in Bhoodan for settling landless persons on land.

About 8,719 acres of land have been donated so far in the district, out of which government has contributed 3,784 acres.

1. VINOBA BHAVE, *Bhoodan Yagna*, p. 29

RURAL WAGES

There is a large number of persons in this district who possess no land of their own but depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. They are labourers who are employed to work on the field either casually during harvesting season or throughout the year as annual workers. According to the 1961 Census, 203,854 persons in the district were returned as cultivators and 63,486 as agricultural labourers, the latter constituting 31·14 per cent of the former. This section analyses the difference in the wages earned for the different operations in which they are engaged. A comparison of wage rates prevalent in pre-war, post-war and present times is also attempted.

Casual Labour

Most of the land-holders employ casual field labourers only when there is a rush of work on the farm and pay them on daily basis. Agricultural operations such as ploughing which entail more strenuous labour command a higher wage rate. While much of the heavy work is done by men, women and children are employed in such work as weeding, winnowing, watering, etc. They are usually paid in cash and rarely in kind. The daily wage rates have increased considerably in recent years compared to pre-war and post-war years. In most of the talukas the increase is not less than threefold. In some it is even more. In Palitana taluka for example, the rates for ploughing, harrowing, sowing, etc., have increased from 8 annas (50 paise) in 1939 to Rs. 3·00 in 1959 thus recording a sixfold increase in the wage rates. Statement XI·5 appended at the end of this Chapter gives comparative rates prevalent in pre-war and post-war years in different talukas of the district.

The current rates in the district vary according to the demand and supply of labour and the proximity of the place from towns. Labourers who are nearer the towns prefer to go and work there instead of bargaining for a low wage in their own villages. This tendency is, however, confined to male labourers only, as females rest content with whatever little they get at their own place. Their wage rates have increased from 4 to 6 annas in pre-war years to Rs. 2 to 2·50 at present.

Casual labourers work from sunrise to sunset with a break of about two hours for lunch at noon. Sometimes during harvesting periods they work even more and are also paid more. The main source of labour is the village itself, though at times during the harvesting season help of labourers from surrounding villages is also called for to meet the local shortage. Field labour being seasonal, they have to seek alternate employment during the off season. Such work includes collecting and selling of fire-wood or hay, making tiles, spinning, weaving, etc.

Harvesting of crops like *bajri*, *jowar*, groundnut and wheat is sometimes given on contract basis. The system is known as *udhad* wherein labourers are paid a certain quantity of grain for harvesting a particular piece of land. Harvesting of sugarcane is either on daily wage system or on contract basis.

Labourers engaged in preparing *gur* are known as *bhurias* and are paid between Rs. 4 to 5 per day. A more important function is performed by a *galara* who actually supervises the *gur* making process and prepares it after the sugar-cane juice is boiled. Being an experienced and skilled labourer, he earns a little higher rate of wages. Besides cash payment, these labourers get meals, tea, *bidis* and also some *gur* and sugar-cane.

Those cultivators whose holdings are large enough to provide continuous and regular employment for the whole year engage annual servants also. They are known as *sathi*. A *sathi* binds himself to do all types of farm work and is available all the hours of day and night. The contract is entered into generally for one year and renewed year after year with the consent of the parties. In addition to cash remuneration a *sathi* is provided with other facilities such as food, clothing, shoes and accommodation. Normally, payment to a *sathi* is made at the end of the year, but when necessity arises, he is given small amounts of money occassionally by way of part payment. The annual wages paid to *sathis* varied from Rs. 100 per year during pre-war years to Rs. 250 during post-war years and rose to Rs. 350 and more in 1960 in most of the talukas. The highest annual wages earned during these three periods were Rs. 125, Rs. 400 and Rs. 700 respectively. Boy *sathis* earned approximately Rs. 60 to 100 per year.

Artisans

Some artisans of the village are actively connected with the cultivators at various stages of operations. They are the *vasvayas* of the old village economy who still survive, albeit in a less recognised form. They are paid annually in kind at the harvest time for the services rendered to the landholders. The *vasvayas* include *suthar* (carpenter), *lohar* (blacksmith), *chamar* (cobbler), *valand* (barber) and *kumbhar* (potter). The system of payment in kind is gradually disappearing and many farmers now pay in cash. The commodities given by way of wages include foodgrains, pulses and sometimes a bundle of fodder and seasonal vegetables.[1]

REGISTRATION

Registration of Documents

Under the Indian Registration Act (XVI of 1908) registration of certain documents is compulsory and optional in case of certain other documents. As a rule, fees are levied for the registration of documents but the State Government have exempted co-operative societies registered under the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act (VII of 1925) now adopted as the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961, from the payment of such fees. Certain types of societies enjoy restricted exemption in respect of certain documents involving consideration up to a prescribed limit, fees being charged for documents with higher consideration.

1. Details of the wage rates prevalent in the district for the years 1962 to 1966 are given in the Statement IX 12 of Chapter IX—Economic Trends.

Marriages under the Special Marriage Act, Indian Christian Marriage Act are also registered.

Registry Offices

There were 12 Sub-Registries in the district as on December, 1960 either under a full time Sub-Registrar or a Treasury Aval Karkun of the taluka or mahal working as an *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar. The Mamlatdar or Mahalkari of the local taluka or mahal in the district is an additional Sub-Registrar.

District Registrar

The Collector, Bhavnagar, is the *ex-officio* District Registrar who exercises powers of supervision and inspection over the entire registration staff in the district. Though the Sub-Registrars are appointed by the Inspector General of Registration, the District Registrar has powers to fill in temporary vacancies. He hears appeals and applications preferred to him under Sections 72 and 73 of the Indian Registration Act (XVI of 1908) against refusals to register documents by the Sub-Registrars under him. Under Sections 25 and 34 of the same Act, he is empowered to condone delays in presentation of documents and appearance of executants provided the delay does not exceed four months, and directs such documents to be registered on payment of a fine not exceeding ten times the proper registration fee. He is also competent to order refund in the case of surcharges and to grant full or partial remission of safe custody fees in suitable cases. A will or codicil may be deposited in a sealed cover and it may be got registered at the cost of the party desiring it after the depositor's death. He is also authorised to record and register births and deaths under the Births, Deaths and Marriage Registration Act (VI of 1886).

The chief functions of the Sub-Registrar is to register documents, keep a record of all documents registered and send to officers concerned extracts from documents affecting immovable property in respect of which a record of rights is maintained. Every Sub-Registrar is an *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar to register births and deaths. The Sub-Registrar working as Headquarter Sub-Registrar at Bhavnagar is vested with the powers of solemnising marriages under the Special Marriage Act.

The Headquarter Sub-Registrar, Bhavnagar, assists the Collector in adjudication of documents impounded under Section 33 of the Bombay Stamp Act, (No. IX of 1958) and also in the adjudication of cases under Section 31 of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958.

Statistics

The annual income of the Registration Department in Bhavnagar district was Rs. 116,920 and the annual expenditure Rs. 44,470 in the year 1965. Copying of documents is done by hand in all offices. In all 8,524 documents were registered in the district in the year 1965. Of these, 8,516 documents falling under compulsory registration were of the aggregate value of Rs. 25,715,911; 8 falling under optional registration were of the aggregate

value of Rs. 5,736 ; 46 affecting movable property were of the aggregate value of Rs. 166,392 and 132 were wills.

STAMPS

The Superintendent of Stamps is the authority controlling the supply and sale of State stamps. In Bhavnagar district the Collector as the administrative head of the district, is in charge of stamp work. As there is no treasurer in the treasury, the work of sale of stamps to vendors and the public is done by a Stamp Head Clerk under the direct supervision of the Treasury Officer, who is a gazetted officer. He is in charge of the local depot at Bhavnagar and responsible for the maintenance of the stock of stamps, their distribution to the branch depots in the district and sale to the public. Refund of value of unused, spoiled and obsolete stamps is not ordered by the Treasury Officer as these powers are not delegated to the Treasury Officer, after the separation of the treasury work from the Revenue Department, but exercised by the Collector, Deputy Collectors, Mamlatdars and Mahalkaris. A branch depot is located at every taluka or mahal headquarters and is in charge of a Sub-Treasury Officer, i.e., the Mamlatdar or Mahalkari.

For the convenience of the public stamps are sold not only at the local depot and branch depots but also at various other centres by licenced stamp vendors appointed by the Collector. There are 39 vendors in the district. The non-judicial stamps in case of instruments requiring stamp duty of the value of above Rs. 150 and the court fee stamps of above Rs. 125 are sold directly by the Treasuries and sub-treasuries to the public. Stamps below these denominations are sold by authorised vendors. The sub-treasury taluka Aval Karkuns act as *ex-officio* stamp vendors by virtue of their post.

The total income realised from the sale of stamps in Bhavnagar district in the year 1960-61 (May 1960 to March 1961) was Rs. 647,454·87 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 252,173·96 for judicial stamps. The vendors were allowed a small discount which in the year 1960-61 amounted to Rs. 9,763·15 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 1,352·43 for judicial stamps.

SALES TAX

Sales Tax was first introduced in Saurashtra in June, 1950. It provided levy of a single point of tax at the last stage. With the formation of bilingual Bombay State, it was found that different systems of sales tax existed in different regions of the State. In order that a uniform system of sales tax may be evolved and applied to all the parts of the integrated State, the Government of Bombay appointed a Committee of Enquiry which recommended a composite system of sales tax. The Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959, which was enacted in pursuance of its recommendations, came into force from 1st January, 1960. It is this Act which is at present adapted and implemented by the State of Gujarat.

Collection of Tax

The collection of sales tax in Bhavnagar district for the year 1960-61 was Rs. 5,782,408·59.

TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES

Tax on motor vehicles constitutes one of the important sources of State revenue. The Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Bhavnagar, whose jurisdiction extends over the districts of Bhavnagar, Surendranagar and Amreli functions as licensing, registering and taxation authority under the Regional Transport Officer, Rajkot from 1st October, 1963. Prior to this date the district was directly under the control of the officer, last named.

The net collections[1] of revenue realised for the districts of Bhavnagar, Surendranagar and Amreli for the period from 1st October, 1963 to 31st March, 1964 were as under.

		Rs. Ps.
1	Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958 ..	814,506.88
2	Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, 1958 (Taxation Passengers) ..	177,063.22
3	Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962 ..	194,246.45
4	Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939	21,229.60
5	Fees and other receipts	77.00
	Total	1,207,723.15

EXCISE

Excise of *abkari* revenue is one of the sources of State income, though not an important one in view of the policy of total prohibition adopted by the Government of Gujarat. The Prohibition and Excise Department in the district is responsible for the administration of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 and Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955. The District Inspector of Prohibition and Excise, Bhavnagar, who is in charge of this work in the district works under the supervision and control of the Collector. He has under him two sub-Inspectors, one stationed at Bhavnagar and the other at Mahuva, besides sub-Inspectors in charge of Bonded Laboratories, viz., (1) The Vartej Chemical Industries (Private) Limited, Bhavnagar, (2) The Western India Chemical Industries, Bhavnagar, (3) M/s. Jayant Chemical Works, Vartej and (4) The Bhavnagar Chemical Works, Vartej.

The State Government levies excise duty on the following commodities under Section 105 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 ;

(1) Any alcoholic preparation for human consumption,

(2) Any intoxicating drug and hemp,

(3) Opium,

(4) Any other excisable article as defined in clause (13) of Section 2 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

1. Separate figures by district are not available.

In addition to the above articles, excise duty on medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol, opium and narcotic is levied under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 by the Central Government but collected by the Prohibition and Excise Department of the State and retained by the State Government.

Excise duty on various alcoholic preparations brought a total revenue of Rs. 92,768 in 1963-64 and Rs. 104,489 in 1964-65.

Central Excise

The Central Excise administration in the Bhavnagar district, except Savarkundla Range, is vested in the Superintendent of Central Excise, Bhavnagar. The Savarkundla Range consists of Savarkundla and Mahuva talukas of Bhavnagar district and Lilia, Rajula and Jafrabad talukas of Amreli district, and is at present under the control of Superintendent, Central Excise, Gondal. Under the Superintendent of Central Excise, Bhavnagar, there are two Deputy Superintendents, and under each Deputy Superintendent there are five to six Inspectors. The Central Excise Department deals with excise taxes levied on 23 items. Those important in Bhavnagar district are tobacco, vegetable products, vegetable non-essential oil (processed), matches, cotton yarn, cotton fabrics, acids, etc., which yielded a total revenue of Rs. 10,300,000 in the year 1964-65.

INCOME-TAX

This is one of the most important of Central Government taxes. There is one Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax stationed at Bhavnagar who is in charge of this district. Under him there are six Income-tax Officers and six Income-tax Inspectors. Details of the number of assessees and realisation of income-tax in the district for the years 1950-51, 1955-56 and 1963-64 are given below.

Year	Taxable limit	Under Rs. 5,000		Over Rs. 5,000		Total	
		No. of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs in thousand)	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)	No. of assessees	Amount of tax (Rs. in thousand)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1950-51	3,000	2,653	8	3,129	1,989	5,782	1,997
1955-56	4,200	3,102	226	8,398	4,895	11,500	5,117
1963-64	3,000	2,135	81	4,927	6,313	7,062	6,293

Variation in the number of assessees and the amount of tax from time to time is mainly due to changes in the taxable limit, rate structures, and changes in the territorial jurisdiction of the Income-tax Officer, Bhavnagar. In 1961-62 Savarkundla, Rajula, Liliya and Jafrabad which were under the jurisdiction of Income-tax Officer, Bhavnagar district, were transferred to Income-tax Officer, Amreli district.

STATEMENT XI-5

Wages of Agricultural Operations, 1939, 1949 and 1959

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Ploughing, harrowing, carting, etc.			Harvesting of crops		
		1939	1949	1959	1939	1949	1959
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.
1	Sihor ..	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 0 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 0 0
2	Palitana ..	0 8 0	1 8 0	3 0 0	0 8 0	1 8 0	3 0 0
3	Talaja ..	0 8 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	0 8 0	1 8 0	2 0 0
4	Mahuva ..	0 8 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	3 0 0
5	Umrala .	0 8 0	1 8 0	2 8 0	0 12 0	2 0 0	3 0 0
6	Gadhada .	0 8 0	1 8 0	2 8 0	0 8 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
7	Vallabhipur ..	0 8 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	0 8 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
8	Botad ..	0 8 0	0 12 0	1 8 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	1 8 0
9	Gariadhar ..	1 0 0	1 8 0	3 0 0	0 8 0	1 0 0	2 0 0
10	Bhavnagar ..	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 8 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	3 8 0
11	Kundla ..	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 8 0
12	Gogha ..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Threshing of grains			Other miscellaneous work		
		1939	1949	1959	1939	1949	1959
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.
1	Sihor ..	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 0 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 8 0
2	Palitana ..	0 8 0	1 8 0	3 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	4 0 0
3	Talaja ..	0 8 0	1 8 0	2 0 0	0 8 0	1 8 0	2 4 0
4	Mahuva ..	0 12 0	1 12 0	3 0 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 0 0
5	Umrala ..	0 8 0	1 8 0	2 0 0	0 8 0	8 0	4 0 0
6	Gadhada ..	0 12 0	1 8 0	3 0 0	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
7	Vallabhipur ..	0 8 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
8	Botad ..	0 8 0	0 12 0	1 8 0	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
9	Gariadhar ..	5 lbs. of grain	7½ lbs. of grain	10 lbs. of grain	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 0 0
10	Bhavnagar ..	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 0 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 8 0
11	Kundla ..	1 0 0	2 0 0	3 0 0	1 0 0	1 8 0	2 8 0
12	Gogha ..	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.

N. A.=Not available

Source :
District Agriculture Officer, Bhavnagar

CHAPTER XII

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

The Judiciary

The Early Period

The earliest known machinery for the maintenance of law and order dates back to the fifth century, when the Maitrakas ruled over the Valabhi kingdom. They seem to have evolved a hierarchy of functionaries exercising powers and jurisdiction attached to their status. At the *ahara* headquarters, the largest territorial and administrative division, there seems to have been stationed three officers, namely, the *Adhikaranika*, the *Dandapasika* and the *Sthanadhikarana*. The first two are known to have existed even before the advent of the Maitraka rule. The *Adhikaranika* was the chief judicial magistrate of the *ahara* or *rastra*. The *Sthanadhikarana* appears to have been in charge of a lesser subdivision termed *Sthali* or *Sthan* which is equivalent to a *sthana* and exercised magisterial as well as police functions. The office of *Sthanadhikarana* appears to correspond to the *thanadars* of pre-Independence days who exercised magisterial as well as police functions. In former Kathiawar and Rajputana States both these functions were combined in one and the same officer. The *Dandapasika* was the head police officer under whom the *Chaurodharanikas*, the *Vartamapalas*, the *Pratisarakas* and other subordinate police officials exercised their various functions. The *gram* or the village which was the smallest administrative unit of the Maitrakas of Valabhi, was in charge of the *gramakuta*, the head of the village who was assisted by *Mahattara*. The other village officials were the *Vartampala*, the road watchman and the *Pratisaraka* charged with the duties of watching the fields and villages at night. The functions of both these officers correspond to those of *Vartaniya* and *Pasayata* of the present times. The Bhat and Chat possibly protected from flatterers the particular area entrusted to them for the investigation of crime.

District Judge

The judicial set-up was remodelled after the pattern obtaining in Bombay State on the formation of the State of Saurashtra. In the existing set-up, the District Judge is the highest judicial authority in the district and presides over the District Court which has its headquarters at Bhavnagar.

Civil Courts

The District Court is the principal court of original jurisdiction in the district. It is also a court of appeal from all decrees and orders passed in the suits valued up to Rs. 10,000 by the subordinate courts. The provisions of Civil Manual of 1960, Volume I and II, issued by the High Court of Judicature, Bombay, Appellate side, for the guidance of the civil courts

and officers subordinate to it were made applicable to this district with effect from 28th April, 1960. The District Judge exercises general control over all the civil courts and their establishments and inspects the proceedings of courts subordinate to him.

The Assistant Judge and Additional Sessions Judge or the Assistant Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge assists the District and Sessions Judge in the Civil and Criminal work transferred to them.

Subordinate to the District Judge, are courts of the Civil Judge, Senior Division and Civil Judge, Junior Division. The jurisdiction of the latter extends to all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature where the amount involved in the subject matter does not exceed Rs. 10,000 in value, while that of the former extends to all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature irrespective of the value of the subject matter. Appeals in suits and proceedings where the subject matter does not exceed Rs. 10,000 in value lie direct to the District Court, while those wherein the subject matter exceeds in value Rs. 10,000 lie direct to the High Court. Besides the District Court, there are, at Bhavnagar, a court of Civil Judge, Senior Division and four courts of Civil Judges, Junior Division. As small cause judge a Civil Judge, Junior Division, tries cases up to the prescribed pecuniary limits. As a judicial magistrate, first class, he works as the President of the Children's Court under Saurashtra Children Act No. XXIX of 1956. There are two honorary second class magistrates sitting in the Juvenile Court (Children's Court), Bhavnagar, over and above the President.

Besides the above courts located at Bhavnagar, there are five courts of Civil Judges, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrates at Sihor, Palitana, Kundla, Talaja and Mahuva. There are two linked courts of Civil Judges, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrates, First Class, at Botad-Gadhada and Vallabhipur-Umrala. The court of Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Gogha, is linked with the court of Civil Judge, Senior Division, Bhavnagar and Joint Civil Judge, Junior Division. The Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Bhavnagar, is, therefore, deputed to work at Gogha bimonthly for ten days. The linked court Judges at Botad-Gadhada and Vallabhipur-Umrala hold their sittings at the linked stations at Gadhada and Umrala for disposal of civil and criminal cases for 10 days and 15 days in a month respectively.

CRIMINAL COURTS

The District Judge, Bhavnagar, is also the Sessions Judge of the District. The Sessions Judge tries criminal cases which are committed to his court by the judicial magistrates after preliminary inquiry and hears appeals against the decisions of the subordinate magistrates. He is also the Special Judge of the district and tries all cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

The Assistant Judge exercises the powers of Additional Sessions Judge on the criminal side for trial of sessions cases, criminal appeals, and miscel-

laneous criminal applications transferred to him for disposal. If the Assistant Judge is not invested with powers of Additional Sessions Judge, he works as Assistant Sessions Judge only. The Sessions Judge and the Additional Sessions Judge may pass any sentence authorised by law, but any sentence of death passed by them is subject to confirmation by the High Court. They can also hear appeals and revision applications from decisions of Magistrates. The Assistant Sessions Judge can impose sentence of imprisonment for 10 years. He has no power to hear appeals and criminal revision applications.

The Bombay Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions (Extension) Act, and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Provision for Uniformity), 1958, (Bombay Act No. XCVII of 1958) have come into force from 1st September, 1959, when the Saurashtra Separation of Judiciary from the Executive by the Judicial and Executive Functions Act No. IV of 1952, was repealed. This Act has also classified the Magistrates into two categories, viz., (1) judicial magistrates and (2) executive magistrates. Judicial magistrates are of the following classes: (1) magistrates of the first class, (2) magistrates of the second class and (3) magistrates of the third class. All the judicial magistrates are, however, invested with powers of first class magistrates. They are subordinate to the Sessions Judge who may from time to time make rules or give special orders as to the distribution of business among them.

Executive magistrates fall under the following classes : (1) District Magistrates, (2) Subdivisional Magistrates and (3) Taluka Magistrates. All executive magistrates are subordinate to the District Magistrate. Their powers and functions are detailed in paras III-A, IV and V of Schedule III of Criminal Procedure Code. Appeals from orders of executive magistrates requiring security for keeping peace lie to the Sessions Court. Criminal Manual of 1960, issued by the High Court of Bombay, was made applicable to the Saurashtra area with effect from 25th April, 1960.

LAW OFFICERS

The Law Officers of Government functioning in Bhavnagar Division are, (1) District Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor, (2) Assistant Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor. There were nearly 112 Legal Practitioners as on December, 1962.

STATISTICS OF CIVIL COURTS

In civil courts of Bhavnagar district, 1,354 suits were pending at the end of 1960. In the year 1961, 2,446 suits were instituted, 2,262 were disposed of and 1,484 were pending at the end of the year. Out of 2,446 suits instituted, 1,579 were for money and movable property, 622 related to immovable property, 170 to specific relief, 42 to mortgage and 33 other suits. 6 of these were of value not exceeding Rs. 10; 264 were of value over Rs. 10 but not exceeding Rs. 50; 274 were of value over Rs. 50 but not exceeding Rs. 100; 717 were of value over Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 500; 227 were of value over Rs. 500 but not exceeding Rs. 1,000; 177 were of value over 1,000 but

not exceeding Rs. 5,000; 17 were of value over Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000; 32 were of value over Rs. 10,000; 732 were of value which could not be estimated.

Out of 2,262 suits disposed of 570 were disposed of without trial, 351 were *ex-parte*, 41 by admission of claim, 906 by compromise, 376 after full trial and 18 by reference to arbitration.

There were 291 appeals (including miscellaneous appeals and appeals under Saurashtra Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1954) pending at the end of the year 1960. During the year 1961, 168 appeals were instituted, 317 appeals were disposed of and 179 appeals were pending at the end of the year. Out of 317 appeals disposed of during the year 1961, 43 were either dismissed or not prosecuted, 159 confirmed, 27 modified, 65 reversed and 23 remanded for re-trial.

STATISTICS OF CRIMINAL COURTS

In the year 1961, there were 21,676 offences reported in the criminal courts of Bhavnagar district. Persons under trial numbered 26,183. Persons whose cases were disposed of in the year 1961 were 24,682. 8,268 of these were discharged or acquitted, 16,247 convicted, 162 committed to Sessions or referred to High Court/Tribunals and 5 died or escaped.

STATISTICS OF SESSIONS COURT

In the sessions court, 96 offences were reported during 1961, 204 persons were under trial, 95 cases were finally disposed of; 118 persons were acquitted or discharged, 56 were convicted, 3 were awarded death sentence of whom two were sentenced to imprisonment for life, while the one that remained was ordered to be retried; twelve persons were sentenced to imprisonment for life and 36 to various terms of imprisonment; 4 were fined and 1 was ordered to give security.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The total revenue derived in 1960-61 from items such as general fees, fines and forfeiture, cash receipts of record room, miscellaneous receipts and sale proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property amounted to Rs. 74,242. The total expenditure in the same year was Rs. 370,939.

BAR ASSOCIATION

The Bhavnagar Bar Association founded in 1930 is the only Bar Association in the district. It encourages and promotes the study of scientific law, protects the interests of lawyers and strives to maintain a high standard of professional conduct. The membership of the Association has been gradually increasing and risen from 60 in 1960 to 84 in 1965.

The Police

INCIDENCE OF CRIME

The sub-joined table shows the number of offences reported in the district during the years 1959, 1960 and 1961. A comparative study of the statistics

reveals a progressive decline in the general incidence of crime. The offences reported in 1959 numbered 29,531 as against 26,386 in 1960 and 21,772 in 1961. Crimes registered under "special and other local laws" were the largest, and accounted for 27,266 (92.32 per cent) in 1959, 23,649 (89.60 per cent) in 1960 and 18,844 (86.54 per cent) in 1961. Whereas hurt, theft, criminal trespass and criminal intimidation are the crimes of common occurrence in the district, offences against the State, those relating to coins, government stamps, and religion, fraudulent deeds and disposal of property, and criminal breach of contract of service have not been reported at all during any of these years.

STATEMENT XII·1

Incidence of Crime

Sl. No.	Description of offence	No. of offences reported in the year		
		1959	1960	1961
1	2	3	4	5
1	Against the State	..	1	..
2	Relating to the Army and Navy	1	..	..
3	Against the public tranquility	45	60	41
4	Relating to public servant	1	5	4
5	Contempt of the lawful authority of public servant	39	34	51
6	False evidence and offences against public justice	10	4	3
7	Relating to coins	..	.	..
8	Relating to government stamps	..	..	..
9	Relating to weights and measures	.	5	..
10	Affecting the public health, safety, convenience, decency and morals	17	68	43
11	Relating to religion	..	..	..
12	Affecting life	98	113	132
13	Causing of miscarriage, injuries to unborn children, etc.	5	9	.
14	Hurt	789	847	715
15	Wrongful restraint and wrongful confinement	46	56	52
16	Criminal force and assault	169	160	159
17	Kidnapping, forcible abduction, slavery and forced labour	5	11	11
18	Rape	3	17	12
19	Unnatural offence	1	..	3
20	Theft	239	331	305
21	Extortion	..	6	3
22	Robbery and dacoity	20	21	47
23	Criminal misappropriation of property	7	9	7
24	Criminal breach of trust	61	98	89
25	Receiving of stolen property	11	7	2
26	Cheating	55	66	77
27	Fraudulent deeds and disposition of property	..	..	..
28	Mischief	149	210	156
29	Criminal trespass	251	261	241
30	Offences relating to documents, trade or property marks	2	5	2
31	Criminal breach of contract of service	..	..	..
32	Offences relating to marriage	17	36	16
33	Defamation	24	32	13
34	Criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance	200	265	294
35	Under special and other local laws	27,266	23,649	18,844
	Total	**29,531**	**26,386**	**21,772**

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, *District Statistical Abstract*, Bhavnagar, 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1961-62

The primary functions of the Police are prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of law and order, apprehension of offenders; escorting and guarding of prisoners, treasuries, private or public property of which they may be placed in charge; and the prosecution of criminals. They have, however, various other duties to perform, such as control of traffic, service of summons and warrants in criminal cases, destruction of stray dogs, inspection of explosive and poison shops and extinguishing fires. Other miscellaneous duties which fall upon the Police Department are giving aid to displaced persons and pilgrims, verification of character, passports and naturalisation inquiries, etc.

ORGANISATION

In the former State of Bhavnagar the police force was divided into two distinct groups, viz., the stipendiary and the village police. The former was controlled by a Superintendent of Police, aided by an Assistant Superintendent, under whom were 12 *foujdars* or Chief Constables, 25 *naib foujdars*, 52 mounted *swars*, 551 *sepoys* and 67 *chowkidars*. The *foujdars* and *naib foujdars* were respectively in charge of mahals and their subdivisions. The village-police on the other hand were directly subordinate to the *Mukhi* or Police Patel of each village, who was responsible for their good behavior to the *Vahivatdar* or the chief revenue authority of the mahal and through him to the *Vasulati Adhikari* or Revenue Commissioner. On the formation of the State of Saurashtra in 1948, the organisation of the Police force and the administration of the Police Department were brought on par with that prevalent in Bombay State.

Under section 4 of the Bombay Police Act (XXII of 1951) the superintendence of the Police force throughout the State vests in and is exercisable by the State Government. In exercise of powers under section 6 of the said Act, the State Government appoints the Inspector General of Police for the direction and supervision of the Police force. The Inspector General of Police in Gujarat is thus the head of the State Police force and has his headquarters at the State Capital.

For the purpose of administration, Gujarat State has been divided into two Police Ranges each under a Deputy Inspector General of Police. In the City of Ahmedabad, the Commissioner of Police is in charge of the City Police Force. The State C.I.D. is under the control of an officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police. Similarly the State Reserve Police and Police Training Schools are in charge of the Deputy Inspector General of Police of the Range concerned. Each range is subdivided into districts, corresponding to the revenue district in charge of a District Superintendent of Police. The District Magistrate has control over the District Superintendent of Police and the Police force of the district. He decides questions of policy and matters relating to the administration of law within the district, but does not interfere with matters such as recruitment, internal economy and organisation of the district force. The District Superintendent of Police is the executive head of the Police force in the district. His primary duties

are to keep the force under his control properly trained, efficient and contented and to ensure by constant supervision that the prevention, investigation and detection of crime in his district are properly and efficiently dealt with by the force.

Each district is divided into subdivisions numbering two to three. Each subdivision is in charge of an officer of the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police who is responsible for all crime work within his charge and works under the general orders of the Superintendent. He is responsible for the efficiency and discipline of the officers and men in his subdivision. He has to hold detailed inspections of police stations and outposts in his charge at regular intervals. Each subdivision has one or more Inspectors. The Inspectors are employed entirely on crime work and supervision of bad characters and gangs in their circles. They also supervise and co-ordinate the crime work of the different police stations within their circles.

At district headquarters, the District Superintendent of Police is assisted by an Inspector who is termed Home Inspector and works as his personal assistant. He supervises the work of the office and the headquarters during his absence. In bigger districts, there are Inspectors for Local Intelligence and Local Crime Branches. In Bhavnagar district, there is an officer of the rank of a Sub-Inspector of Police each for Local Crime Branch and Local Intelligence Branch. Each district is divided into a number of Police Stations each in charge of a Sub-Inspector of Police, who has under him Head Constables and Constables.

Railway Police

The control and administration of the Railway Police is vested in a Superintendent of Police who has a parallel organisation on the lines of the District Superintendent of Police. He functions under the supervision and control of the State Deputy Inspector General of Police and the Inspector General of Police.

Anti-Corruption and Prohibition

With a view to eradicate the evil of corruption and for a more effective implementation of the prohibition policy of Government, the Anti-Corruption and Prohibition intelligence force has been created under the direct control of the Inspector General of Police, Gujarat State. Every district has at least one Sub-Inspector of Police from this force.

Vigilance Committee

In order to arrest the rise in prices of essential commodities and put an end to artificial scarcity a vigilance committee consisting of prominent citizens, businessmen, presidents of trade associations and official members was formed in 1965. A permanent committee consisting of Collector, President, Bhavnagar Borough Municipality, President, Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce, President, Madhyastha Sahkari Bhandar and a non-official member was also appointed to deal with the day to day problems.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

Bhavnagar district is divided into two Subdivisions, viz., Bhavnagar Subdivision with its headquarters at Bhavnagar and Palitana Subdivision with its headquarters at Palitana, each in charge of a Subdivisional Police Officer. In addition to the Police headquarters at Bhavnagar, there are in all 22 Police Stations and 23 Outposts in the district. Out of the former, 5 are town Police Stations, viz., Bhavnagar, Kundla, Palitana, Mahuva and Botad and 17 taluka Police Stations as shown in Statement XII-2 given below.

STATEMENT XII-2

Police Stations and Outposts

Sl. No.	Taluka/Mahal	Police Station	Outpost
1	Bhavnagar ..	Bhavnagar 'A' Division	
2	Bhavnagar ..	Bhavnagar 'B' Division	
3	Bhavnagar ..	Bhavnagar 'C' Division	
4	Bhavnagar ..	Vartej	1 Koliyak 2 Bhandaria
5	Sihor ..	Sihor	Tana
6	Sihor ..	Songadh	..
7	Umrala ..	Umrala	Dhola-Gam
8	Vallabhipur .	Vallabhipur	Ratanpar
9	Botad ..	Botad	1 Paliyad 2 Rohishala
10	Gadhada ..	Gadhada	1 Dhasa 2 Vavdi
11	Gogha ..	Gogha	1 Vavdi 2 Valukad
12	Palitana .	Palitana (Town)	
13	Palitana .	Palitana (Rural)	1 Nonghanvadar 2 Bodana nes 3 Shetrunji Dam
14	Gariadhar ..	Gariadhar	Moti Vavdi
15	Kundla ..	Kundla	1 Mitiala 2 Vijapdi
16	Kundla ..	Jesar	Vanda
17	Mahuva ..	Mahuva	Kumbhan
18	Mahuva .	Khuntavda	
19	Mahuva ..	Bagdana	Malvav
20	Talaja ..	Datha	Unchdi
21	Talaja ..	Talaja	1 Trapaj 2 Dihor
22	Talaja ..	Velavadar	

Source :

Inspector General of Police, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

STRENGTH

The sanctioned strength of police officers and men in the year 1962 was 1,403. Its composition was as follows : 1 District Superintendent of Police, 2 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 4 Inspectors (including Home Inspector), 6 Police Prosecutors, 36 Police Sub-Inspectors (including leave and training reserve), 163 Unarmed Head Constables, 111 Armed Head Constables,

569 Unarmed Constables, 505 Armed Constables, 3 Head Wireless Operators and 3 Wireless Operators.

The expenditure on the officers and establishment in the district for the year 1962 was Rs. 1,932,200. The ratio of the police to area and population worked out to one policeman to 3.44 square miles and one policeman to 829.93 persons.

Among 43 officers and 1,354 men in the Bhavnagar District Police Force, all were literate in 1961.

The district has a fleet of 13 police vehicles. Wireless arrangement has been provided as under : Bhavnagar—1 transmitter and 1 receiver (working on main), 1 transmitter and 1 receiver (working on battery stand); Palitana—1 transmitter and receiver and Kundla—1 transmitter and 1 receiver. In 1960, a high frequency wireless transmitter was set-up in Bhavnagar city with 1 wireless transmitter for control and 2 transmitter receivers working on 6 volt battery for mobile vans.

HOUSING

Of the total strength of 1,348 Policemen (permanent and temporary), 1,009 were housed in government quarters. Of the 36 Sub-Inspectors, 28 were similarly provided.

WELFARE WORK

A Police mess and canteen has been started from Police Welfare Fund at Police headquarters, Bhavnagar, to cater to the need of recruits in respect of food and light refreshments. A tailoring and embroidery class has been started at Bhavnagar to enable the wives of the policemen and their daughters to learn tailoring and embroidery and supplement their income by making useful articles. There is also a children's park at Police headquarters, Bhavnagar.

VILLAGE POLICE

The District Police is helped by the Village Police. Under the Bombay Village Police Act (VIII of 1867), the control of the Village Police is with the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate may, however, delegate any of his powers to the District Superintendent of Police. Each village generally has a Police Patel, who is required to collect information regarding suspicious characters and send them to the Police Station. He has to keep a strict watch over the movements of notorious characters under surveillance of the Police. When the patrolling Policemen go to the village, he has to give all the information he possesses about what is happening in the village.

KOTWAL SCHEME

Kotwal Scheme has been adopted since 1st May, 1962. Kotwal is a servant appointed at a village for performing duties as may be prescribed from time to time by government or by any officer authorised by government in this behalf. The number of kotwals to be appointed in each village is determined by the collector in accordance with the scale and rules prescribed. The

remuneration of the kotwal shall be such as will be determined by government from time to time. The appointment of a kotwal is for the period up to the 1st of April following the date of appointment. Though it is purely temporary, it is renewed from year to year so long as the holder of the appointment continues to be fit to hold it. The service of a person as a kotwal does not qualify him for leave, gratuity, pension or such other benefits as a government servant is entitled. Appointment of kotwal of a village is made by a Mamlatdar. In February every year, the village officer has to submit a report to the Mamlatdar in the form prescribed in duplicate. He sends the original direct to the Mamlatdar and the duplicate to him through the Sub-Inspector of Police. A kotwal shall within one month of his appointment be required to give security for Rs. 100 and furnish two sureties in form F as he has to handle government money. The Revenue Patel or the Revenue and Police Patel if there be no Revenue Patel, is primarily responsible for the general supervision and control over the work of the kotwal of his village. A total strength of 633 kotwals has been sanctioned by the government in Bhavnagar district

HOME GUARDS

In 1948, Home Guards organisation was started in this district during the regime of the former Saurashtra State. It functioned under the Commandant, Home Guards, who had under him District Organisers and local leaders appointed by government. The local leaders were paid honorarium. The organisation is non-political and non-communal. All members on enrolment have to sign a pledge to the effect that they will well and truly serve the people without fear and affection, malice or ill will for the maintenance of peace and prevention of crime against person and property. In the year 1953, the posts of District Organisers were abolished and the charge of the centres was handed over to the local leaders for 1st and IInd class centres. The four centres operating in this district are Bhavnagar, Palitana, Gadhada and Talaja of which Bhavnagar is a first class centre and the rest second class.

Home Guards are imparted training in squad drill, *lathi* drill, arms drill, firing, use of bayonet, and physical exercises. They are also trained in semaphore Morse signalling (Signalling with flags or hands). When called on duty, they enjoy the same powers and protection as those of an officer of the police force. Their functions consist mainly of guarding public buildings, patrolling, prevention of crime and assisting the police in their duties. They are paid duty allowance of Rs. 2.50 per diem, whenever they are on duty.

GRAM RAKSHAK DAL

Another organisation established by the Government of Saurashtra for the protection of rural areas was the Gram Rakshak Dal. The number of villages where these Village Defence Parties are organised stood at 232 with a membership of 21,232 on 30th June 1962. Members are recommended for arms licenses in deserving cases.

Jails

ORGANISATION

Prisons in Gujarat State are constituted under the Prisons Act of 1894. The Inspector General of Prisons is the head of the Jail Department appointed under Section 5 of the Prisons Act IX of 1894 who exercises, subject to the orders of the State Government, general control and superintendence over all prisons, jails and the headquarter sub-jails in the State.

LOCATION OF JAILS

There is a district prison at Bhavnagar, where casual prisoners sentenced to above 3 months and up to 2 years imprisonment are sent. Undertrials are kept in the local prison house. In the district prison, there is a part-time Superintendent who is ordinarily a Senior Medical Officer of the local Government hospital, assisted by a senior jailor, junior jailor, ministerial staff and jail guards for the management of the prison. There are seven judicial lock-ups located at (1) Sihor, (2) Palitana, (3) Vallabhipur, (4) Botad, (5) Kundla, (6) Mahuva and (7) Talaja. In regard to taluka sub-jail, the Mamlatdar or Mahalkari is the jailor who is paid remuneration of Rs. 5 per month as special pay. The Judicial Magistrate of the place in which the judicial lock-up is situated is usually the superintendent of the judicial lock-up. A clerk from the establishment of the Judicial Magistrate's Court is the jailor who is paid a similar remuneration.

The Bhavnagar District Prison has accommodation for 330 prisoners. The total number of convicts and undertrials in this jail as on 13th July, 1962 was :

Convicts		Undertrials		Total	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
83	..	53	1	136	1

Source :
Inspector General of Prisons, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

PRISON DISCIPLINE

Life inside the prison is orderly and disciplined. There is a well-defined routine which a prisoner has to follow in a disciplined manner, any breach of jail rules being punishable by a cut in the period of remission of the sentence, separate confinement and transfer. The routine is so devised that the physical, moral, intellectual, cultural and economic sides of the life of a prisoner are properly balanced and make him fit after release to face the world boldly and cheerfully leaving behind his anti-social way of life. The statement given below shows the nature and number of jails offences reported during the year.

	Nature of offence				No. of offences
1	Offences relating to work	..	..	..	2
2	Offences relating to prohibited articles		..	..	6
3	Offences relating to assaults	..	..	..	7
4	Other breaches of jail rules	..	..	..	8
	Total .	..	..	..	23

Source :

Superintendent of District Jail, Bhavnagar

On the reformative side several steps have been taken by government. The first phase of jail reforms in this and other districts of Saurashtra started with the improvement in the treatment of the inmates of the jails. Iron fetters were done away within the jail premises. Hard labour which broke down even the most able-bodied persons was also removed. One of the most important aspects of jail reforms is the introduction and expansion of cottage and small scale industries in jails. Prisoners get an opportunity to learn some important profession which they can follow when they come out of the jail. The Bhavnagar district prison has specialised in furniture making in addition to other industries. Among other articles produced by the prisoners are various stationery articles. gum, chalk sticks, pin cushions, blotters and towels. The total value of the goods manufactured in the district prison was Rs. 58,289, bringing a profit of Rs. 14,525, in 1964. The daily average of prisoners employed in the workshop of the district Jail of Bhavnagar in 1964 numbered 62.

Welfare of Prisoners

Though jails are considered penal institutions, they are nowadays regarded more or less as institutions for the reformation and rehabilitation of those men and women, who find themselves in jail for a variety of reasons. Of late, government has introduced several jail reforms in which the welfare of prisoners occupies an important place. These include (i) supply of newspapers and weeklies at government cost, (ii) permission to prosecute their studies and get school books in addition to religious books from relatives and jail library, (iii) holding of literacy classes for the benefit of long term prisoners under the supervision of regular teachers, (iv) cultural activivities in the form of *bhajans*, songs, etc., (v) filmshows in jails by the District Information Officer and (vi) canteen facilities at nominal cost to make them feel at home in the jail. An important step deserving special mention is the establishment of Prisoner's Panchayats for redressing their grievances. They played an important role in bringing to the notice of the administration urgent requirements of prisoners and training them in democratic form of government. Grievances generally relate to quality of food supplied and other matters which normally do not come to the notice of authority directly. Members of the panchayats are elected from among the prisoners.

TREATMENT OF SPECIAL CLASSES OF PRISONERS, JUVENILE, DELINQUENTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, ETC.

Prisoners are classified as class I or class II according to their status in the society as also the nature of the offence. They are further classified as Casual, Habitual, Undertrails and security or detenus, but there is no separate class of "Political prisoners". Prisoners who are considered hardened and incorrigible from all over the State are confined at the Bhuj Special Prison, so as to give them deterrent treatment. The juveniles between the ages of 17 to 23 years from all over the State are kept at Junagadh District Prison. The other juveniles admitted in ordinary prisons are also kept entirely separate from other prisoners. Special Advisory Committee for juveniles, appointed for the purpose, examines the cases of the inmates and makes recommendations as to whether the inmates should be released either conditionally or otherwise. Recommendations for the transfer of inmates of the juvenile section of a prison or for retention for further treatment in the juvenile section after attaining the age of 23 years are forwarded to the Inspector General of Prisons, Ahmedabad for orders.

Short term women prisoners undergoing a sentence of a month or less are kept at Bhavnagar Jail in a separate cell, the rest are transferred to the Central Prison at Baroda.

JUVENILES AND BEGGARS

Organisation

Social welfare activities are conducted under three special Acts, viz., (1) The Saurashtra Children Act, 1956 (2) The Women and Children's Institution Licensing Act, 1956 and (3) The Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938.

The Directorate of Child Rehabilitation and Social Welfare was the controlling authority under the Education and Rehabilitation Department in the former State of Saurashtra. But after November, 1956, the work was taken over by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Bombay State, under the control of the "Social Welfare Department". On the formation of Gujarat State, this work is in charge of the Directorate of Social Welfare, functioning at Ahmedabad.

Observation Home

An observation home (for boys) was started in 1958 under the provisions of the Saurashtra Children Act. To assist in the implementation of this Act, a private agency called Bhavnagar District Probation and After-care Association was formed and a Probation Officer appointed in 1958. As government was paying full charges and as the District Probation and After-care Association showed its inability to raise its share of the necessary finance to run the institution, the management was taken over by the government in 1961.

The Observation Home provides training in craft and literacy for inmates who are detained till their cases are finalised by the court. The children committed to the institution are sent to the Special School, Rajkot, and other Certified Schools in Gujarat State, while some are committed to the Observation Home also. The institution is housed in private rented building. It has sufficient space to accommodate inmates up to 30. The Observation Home is located at Vaghawadi Hariala Plot, Bhavnagar. The staff for the institution is : 1 Probation Officer-*cum*-Superintendent, 1 Language Teacher, 1 Craft Instructor, 1 Cook and 2 Attendants.

Shri Tapibai Vikas Griha, Bhavnagar is recognised as Observation Home for Girls. It is a private institution. Towards the expenditure incurred, remuneration at the rate of Rs. 30 per month for remanded cases and Rs. 25 p.m. for the court committed cases is paid to this agency.

SAURASHTRA WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S LICENSING ACT, 1956

This Act regulates and provides for license to institutions for the care of women and children. The official agency for the enforcement of the Act was formerly the District Magistrate. However, after the Government of Bombay had applied the Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing Act), 1956 to the whole of Bombay State with effect from April, 1959, the Saurashtra Act was repealed and the Director of Social Welfare has become the licensing authority for Gujarat State. Under this Act, licenses were given to Shri Tapibai Vikas Griha, Bhavnagar and Nandkuvarba Anath Ashram, Bhavnagar.

PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ACT, 1938

This Act was in force in the former State of Saurashtra. Later, when the Bombay Probation of Offenders Act was brought into force in the year 1961 the office of the Chief Officer was created to implement the provisions of the Act. The work under this Act is progressing well.

DISTRICT SHELTER (FOR MALES), BHAVNAGAR

In 1955, the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, appointed two Committees to look after moral and social hygiene and after-care services. Institutions under after-care schemes were, therefore, started on an all-India basis. These institutions are open to persons released from correctional and non-correctional institutions. After-care homes are started also for males and females.

These Homes called District Shelters and Reception centres are short term contact centres where the inmates are admitted, employed or rehabilitated locally. In case they need further institutionalisation, they are transferred to the State Home, where they are trained in some vocation to enable them to be self-supporting. A District Shelter started at Bhavnagar in the year 1958 had admitted 344 inmates up to 31st March, 1962.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The role of public administration has been increasingly expanding in recent times to meet the exigencies of planning for a Welfare State. The activities now undertaken by government are so diverse that a number of departments which did not exist or play any significant part in the past have come up since Independence to give effect to various nation-building activities enunciated in each successive Five Year Plan. Administrative set-up of some of the important departments like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Public Works, Industries, Co-operation, etc., which have expanded their activities in modern times will be considered in this Chapter.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

There were days when agriculture did not merit the distinction of having a separate department. And even when such a necessity was felt during pre-Independence days, its activities were not so widespread and intensive as they are to-day. In the country and the State where over 68 per cent of the economically active population is employed on land and livestock, agriculture has assumed supreme importance to ensure self-sufficiency in food. This has led to the reorganisation of the department in two sections, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, each under a separate Director with its ramifications reaching down to the village.

The District Agricultural Officer, Gujarat Agriculture Service class II, is in charge of the agricultural activities in the district. He is directly under the control of the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Rajkot Division, Rajkot. There are ten Agricultural Officers (Extension) under the administrative control of the Taluka Development Officers, technical guidance being given by the District Agricultural Officer. An Assistant District Agricultural Officer assists the District Agricultural Officer in administration and other routine work. Another Officer working under him looks after the activities of Seed Farms in the district. There is a separate Plant Protection Officer assisted by two Junior Plant Protection Assistants.

The District Agricultural Officer is responsible for the following agricultural activities : (a) organising the work of Agricultural Demonstration Centres and holding final demonstrations ; (b) supervision of crop-cutting experiments and conduct of trials of improved seeds and fertilisers; (c) implementation of Five Year Plan schemes ; (d) organisation and working of farmers' unions; (e) guidance to staff; (f) submission of periodical reports on fertilisers, seasons, crops, weather, etc.; (g) execution of Grow More Food Campaign; and (h) carrying out rural development activities.

Agricultural Demonstration and Propaganda

Agricultural demonstration centres help the cultivators adopt agricultural improvements advocated by the department. Field demonstration of standing crops and improved farming practices are actually being held during the season. There were about 25 co-operative societies in 1962 working in collaboration with the department for the distribution of improved seeds, fertilisers and manure mixture, insecticides, pesticides, etc.

Agricultural Experiments and Research

There are three Government Agricultural Research Stations in the district : (1) one at Mahuva for coconut cultivation and research under a separate Agricultural Officer ; (2) the second at Umrala for agronomic experiments on various crops in charge of a Special Officer; and (3) the third at Vallabhipur works on different crops in dry conditions and imparts knowledge in various aspects of dry farming to the farmers of surrounding areas. Each of these officers is assisted by an Agricultural Supervisor and Agricultural Assistants working directly under the control of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Research and Education), Rajkot. There are eleven Seed Multiplication Farms for multiplication of improved strains produced by research farms. The produce of Seed Multiplication Farms is distributed to the registered seed growers of 'A' grade, who in turn give it to 'B' and 'C' type of registered seed growers. Improved strains are thus made available to all the cultivators in the district. The overall supervision and responsibility of the respective seed farm lie on the Agricultural Officer under the guidance of the District Agricultural Officer, Bhavnagar.

The scheme for distribution of improved strains of cotton is looked after by the Cotton Superintendent assisted by Agricultural Supervisors and Agricultural Assistants. He has his headquarters at Botad, which is the chief cotton growing tract of this district.

Mechanical Cultivation

The Mechanical Overseer, Bhavnagar, looks after providing mechanical aids to cultivation and arranges the programme of work on the basis of applications received from cultivators through the extension staff.

SOIL CONSERVATION

The scope of activities undertaken by the Department of Agriculture has been much widened in recent times to include such constructive activities as the programme of soil conservation which aims at preservation of the fertility of land and conservation of moisture. Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Bhavnagar is in charge of this programme. His jurisdiction extends over three districts, viz., Bhavnagar, Amreli and Surendranagar. He is responsible to the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Rajkot, who is under the Joint Director of Agriculture, Ahmedabad. The division at Bhavnagar works under the Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, who has under him

5 Subdivisional Soil Conservation Officers one each at Bhavnagar, Botad and Savarkundla in Bhavnagar district and the rest at Amreli and Surendranagar. Under each Subdivisional Soil Conservation Unit are 5 charges under Agricultural Supervisors, each Agricultural Supervisor supervising the work of 5 Agricultural Assistants.

Divisional Soil Conservation Officer

A Divisional Soil Conservation Officer is responsible for the administration and execution of work in the division in his charge. He acts as the Secretary of the Land Improvement Board of the district in his division and arranges to bring all bunding schemes under the purview of the Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act. He accords technical sanction to the plans and estimates for new bunding works costing Rs. 20,000 or less.

Subdivisional Soil Conservation Officer

The jurisdiction of a Subdivisional Soil Conservation Officer extends over a district or districts or even a few talukas in a district according to the intensity of work. He gives technical guidance to his staff, and scrutinises the plans and estimates prepared in his Subdivision, exercises a percentage check over the work executed, maintains accounts, and prepares recovery statements for the work executed for transmission to the revenue authorities for effecting recoveries.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Functions

Animal Husbandry Department is concerned with veterinary and livestock activities. It looks after cattle wealth by improving the breed of cattle, giving necessary veterinary aid and taking prophylactic measures against contagious and infectious diseases. For both these activities, there is one office at the district level headed by the District Animal Husbandry Officer. Cattle improvement schemes and allied activities have their own staff working under the guidance of District Animal Husbandry Officer, administratively and technically. Under him are dispensaries in charge of Veterinary Officers and Stockmen at taluka level.

Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries

Veterinary dispensaries are located at Bhavnagar, Kundla, Palitana, Sihor, Talaja, Botad, Songadh, Mahuva, Gariadhar, Vallabhipur and Gadhada in addition to a Mobile Veterinary Dispensary at Bhavnagar.

The following is the total number of animals treated during 1960-61.

Name of disease	No. of outbreaks reported	No. of inoculations and vaccinations
Horse sickness	31	10,912
Rinderpest	3	373
South African Horse Sickness ..	53	808
Ranikhet	3	1,478

There are two slaughter houses one each at Bhavnagar and Mahuva. At these places Veterinary Officers examine the animals and give health certificate before slaughter.

FOREST DEPARTMENT

Organisation

The Chief Conservator of Forests, with headquarters at Baroda, is the head of the Forest Department of Gujarat State. He is assisted by two Assistants of Gujarat Forest Service class I. There are three territorial Circles each in charge of a Conservator of Forests: (1) Baroda Circle, Baroda, (2) Junagadh Circle, Junagadh and (3) Surat Circle, Surat. In addition, there is a Kotar Afforestation and Reclamation Circle in charge of a separate Conservator of Forests with headquarters at Baroda for afforestation and reclamation of *kotar* (ravine) lands. Conservators have under them Divisional Forest Officers to look after the administration of the Divisions under their charge. They belong to Gujarat Forest Service class I. They are assisted by Subdivisional Forest Officers who belong to Gujarat Forest Service class II. The Divisions are subdivided into small executive charges called 'Ranges' in charge of the Range Forest Officers who are non-gazetted subordinate officers (class III) usually trained at one of the Forest Colleges in India at Dehra Dun or at Coimbatore. Each Range is subdivided into 'Rounds' and each round is managed by a Round Officer or a Forester, who is usually trained at the Forest Classes in the State at Chhota Udaipur in Baroda district. Finally each 'Round' is subdivided into 'Beats' and each 'Beat' is managed by a Beat Guard who is also called a Forest Guard. A training class for Guards has been opened at Junagadh which trains Guards from all the circles.

There is a separate post of a Silviculturist-*cum*-Forest Utilisation Officer with headquarters at Baroda. This post is held by an officer of Gujarat Forest Service class I under the direct control of the Chief Conservator of Forests. To frame and to revise the existing working plans, two officers of the rank of Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plan, have been appointed with headquarters at Baroda and Surat. They are under the control of the territorial Conservator of Forests of the respective circles.

Forests

The total forest area in Bhavnagar district is 41.50 sq. miles under the Divisional Forest Officer, Gir Division, with headquarters at Junagadh. To keep the forest preserved, protected and improved, there is one Sub-divisional Forest Officer stationed at Amreli. He is assisted by one Range Forest Officer, eight Foresters and twentysix Forest Guards. To attend to coastal plantation and other schemes, one Range Forest Officer, six Foresters and fourteen Forest Guards have been provided.

Revenue

A sum of Rs. 5,959 was realised from timber and firewood and Rs. 7,057 from grass and grazing in 1961-62.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department deals with (1) roads and buildings, (2) irrigation, (3) electricity, (4) housing accommodation and (5) public health. Branches dealing with these subjects are placed under different Superintending Engineers.

Roads and Buildings—Activities in regard to roads and buildings relate to their construction, maintenance and repairs including construction of bridges. This Division is in charge of an Executive Engineer and is divided into four subdivisions, viz., (1) Bhavnagar Subdivision, Bhavnagar, (2) Palitana Subdivision, Palitana, (3) Kundla Subdivision, Kundla and (4) Botad Subdivision, Botad, each in charge of a Deputy Engineer.

While each circle is in charge of a Superintending Engineer, Divisions are in charge of Executive Engineers and Subdivisions in charge of Assistant or Deputy Engineers. Executive Engineers belong to Gujarat Service of Engineers class I and Deputy Engineers to Gujarat Service of Engineers class II. Subdivisions are divided further into sections, each in charge of an Overseer. There are about 20 Overseers in each division.

Roads—The activities of the Public Works Department in regard to roads and buildings relate to construction, repairs and maintenance of roads and government buildings. As on 31st March, 1961, the department maintained 320·25 miles of metalled roads and 153·25 miles of unmetalled roads.

Irrigation—Activities in regard to irrigation relate to the construction, maintenance and repairs of first class irrigation works (having irrigation potential of 250 acres or more) and flood control works.

Electrical Circle—For carrying out advisory, administrative and executive duties pertaining to the generation and use of electricity there is an Electrical Circle under the Electrical Engineer to Government, Ahmedabad. The jurisdiction of this office extends to the whole of the Gujarat State. Under him are three divisions, each in charge of an Executive Engineer with headquarters at Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Baroda. Bhavnagar district is under the jurisdiction of the Rajkot Electrical Division. The Executive Engineer arranges for electrical installations in government buildings and also performs duties of the Electrical Inspector under the Indian Electricity Act (IX of 1910) and carries out inspection of M. P. and H. T. electrical installations, power houses, mills, cinemas, etc. The power stations in the district include (1) Bhavnagar Electricity Company Limited, Bhavnagar, (2) Sihor Electricity Works Limited, Sihor and (3) the power stations located at Palitana, Gadhada, Botad, Mahuva and Savarkundla. Of these, power

houses at Bhavnagar and Sihor are owned by private companies, and the rest by Gujarat Electricity Board. The power stations of Palitana and Gadhada have been closed as they are included in the framework of Bhavnagar Grid Power Supply Scheme which electrifies 56 towns and villages in the district.

Public Health Circle—The Public Health Circle with headquarters at Ahmedabad is a specialised wing of the Public Works Department which looks after the provision of drinking water facilities in the State. Broadly its main functions and activities are planning scrutiny and execution of public health engineering projects such as water supply, drainage and modern sanitary conveniences sponsored by government and local bodies. It is also responsible for the maintenance of water works. It has under it a boring section for preliminary exploration of sub-soil strata, etc., useful for dams and bridges.

The Public Health Division with headquarters at Bhavnagar has jurisdiction over two revenue districts, Bhavnagar and Amreli and four subdivisions, viz., (1) Public Health Sanitary Subdivision, Bhavnagar, for planning and execution of Bhavnagar water supply scheme (Improvement), (2) Public Health Sanitary Subdivision, Sihor, in charge of planning and execution of water supply schemes for three towns, viz., Sihor, Botad and Palitana, (3) Public Health Sanitary Subdivision, Savarkundla. entrusted with the work of planning and execution of water supply schemes for Savarkundla and Mahuva towns. The Savarkundla water supply scheme is being executed departmentally but that of Mahuva by Mahuva Municipality. This subdivision also maintains and operates the Amreli Water Works on behalf of Amreli Municipality and (4) Public Health Project Subdivision : This subdivision has its headquarters at Bhavnagar with jurisdiction over revenue districts of Bhavnagar and Amreli and is specially created for planning and executing rural water supply schemes sponsored by government and other local agencies

Co-operative Department

Organisation

Co-operative activities in Bhavnagar district are in the administrative charge of the District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhavnagar. who is a gazetted officer in class I cadre of the Gujarat Co-operative Service. Over him is the Divisional Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Rajkot, who has jurisdiction over six districts, viz., Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh and Kutch. On the introduction of Panchayati Raj from 1st April, 1963, the State Government has grouped talukas in the district into two subdivisions, viz., western and eastern. There is an Assistant District Registrar for the eastern subdivision comprising Mahuva, Talaja, Bhavnagar, Gogha, Gadhada, Vallabhipur and Botad talukas and another for the western subdivision comprising Sihor, Umrala, Palitana, Gariadhar and Savarkundla talukas. Both have their headquarters at Bhavnagar.

With the introduction of Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1962, the State Government has given wide powers to the District Registrars and

Assistant District Registrars, to cope up with the speedy growth of the movement in the State. To the District Registrar has been delegated the power to register (1) urban banks, (2) taluka marketing societies, (3) taluka purchase and sale unions, (4) taluka sale and supply societies, (5) milk unions below district level, (6) co-operative farming societies, (7) lift irrigation, (8) processing societies, (9) agricultural non-credit societies such as (i) primary societies, (ii) fencing societies, (iii) crop production societies, (iv) land improvement societies, etc., (10) transport, (11) electric supply, (12) education societies, (13) forest labourers' societies, (14) labour contract, (15) housing, (16) taluka supervising unions, and (17) district co-operative boards.

To the Assistant District Registrar has been delegated the power for the registration of the following types of socieites : (1) thrift, (2) agricultural credit, (3) multi-purpose, (4) service co-operatives, (5) urban credit, (6) salary-earners', (7) grain banks, (8) dairy, (9) milk supply, (10) better living, (11) sanitation, (12) health, (13) consumers' stores, (14) weavers', (15) *gram vikas mandals* and (16) industrial societies. Certain other powers under the Act have also been delegated to the District Registrar and the Assistant District Registrar. In the new set-up of the department, District Registrars and Assistant District Registrars have to perform fourfold functions pertaining to (1) credit, (2) marketing, (3) money-lending, and (4) industrial co-operatives.

Supervisory Staff

There is an Extension Officer in each block and a Supervisor in each taluka to serve as the last link in the administrative machinery. Extension Officers are under the technical control of the District Registrar and Supervisors are under the direct control of Assistant District Registrars. Their main responsibility is confined to detailed supervision over the working of all agricultural credit and multi-purpose societies giving assistance to the societies in the preparation of normal credit statements and assets registers and also in making arrangements for the provision of crop finance. At the taluka level a supervising union of non-officials is constituted to recommend or refuse loans to banks or societies, cancelling managements of societies and taking over the charge of the same, etc. There is a supervisor for every union. He is appointed by the Divisional Deputy Registrar and is under the control and direction of the District Supervision Committee.

Supervising Unions

A Supervising Union is formed also at the taluka level by societies registered in the area. All agricultural credit societies, agricultural non-credit societies and non-agricultural credit societies are eligible for membership. The main functions of the Supervising Unions are: (1) to advise, guide, assist, rectify and control its constituent societies through efficient and regular supervision, (2) to provide the means of assessing the credit of each of its

constituent societies and (3) to make recommendations on their behalf to the financing agencies. The Supervisor for the area acts as the secretary of the Union.

District Co-operative Board

Education and training in co-operation and propaganda for the spread of the co-operative movement in the district are carried out by the District Co-operative Board. The District Board is affiliated as a subscribing member to the Divisional Co-operative Board for Gujarat which has its headquarters at Ahmedabad.

Audit

Section 84 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1962 provides for statutory audit of every society once a year, either by the Registrar or by some person authorised by him. The audit staff in the district works under the control of the respective Assistant District Registrar of the district. Besides the Special Auditor, there are three categories of auditors : (1) auditors, (2) sub-auditors, and (3) professional auditors. The Special Auditor at Bhavnagar is an officer belonging to the Co-operative Service, class II. He audits the accounts of : (1) central banks and banking unions, (2) the District Industrial Association and its branches, (3) urban banks, (4) housing societies and (5) societies in liquidation. There are three auditors in Bhavnagar district working at headquarters and one each at Botad and Mahuva. There are three sub-auditors in the district whose headquarters are at Palitana, Talaja, and Savarkundla. Societies which have a turnover of more than Rs. 150,000 are audited by auditors and those which have turnover of less than Rs. 100,000 are audited by sub-auditors, with some exceptions.

In pursuance of the policy of progressive decentralisation of the movement in recent years, steps have been taken to appoint certified auditors to carry out the statutory audit of the various types of institutions. There is one auditor stationed at Bhavnagar for the audit of Land Development Bank.

Educational Institutions

The Gujarat State Co-operative Union which is entrusted with the duty of imparting co-operative training has a regional co-operative school at Bhavnagar. The school is intended to impart training to the lower staff of the Co-operative Department and of co-operative institutions.

Co-operative Marketing

In the revised set-up, the fourfold functions of marketing, money-lending, credit and industrial co-operatives have been integrated and the posts of Marketing Inspectors and Assistant Marketing Officer at the district and divisional levels have been abolished. The Assistant District Registrar of

the district is now in charge of the market committees of his subdivisions. Proposals for the establishment of regulated markets and declaration of market yards are initiated by him.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is also the Director of Agricultural Marketing and in this capacity he shares with the Collector of the district the responsiblity for the effective enforcement of the Bombay Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939 and Saurashtra Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1955. The Director performs the functions of survey, organisation and constitution of regulated markets, assessment of adequate scale of licence fees, rates of commission and charges of other market committees and technical guidance as regards the manner in which the accounts of the market committees shall be maintained. The administrative control of market committees and the enforcement of statutory provisions and rules governing the regulation of markets are, however, vested in the Collector, who exercises these powers in consultation with the Director.

Industrial Co-operatives

The Assistant District Registrar is also entrusted with work relating to cottage industries, small scale industries and industrial co-operatives Moreover, at the district and divisional levels there are District and Deputy Registrars to give necessary guidance to him. There are experts and officers in charge of various sections, viz., handloom, marketing, etc., who are responsible for giving technical guidance to individual artisans and industrial co-operatives in connection with the production and sale of goods of cottage industries.

Money-lending

In view of reorganisation of the Co-operative Department and integration of its functions, the Assistant District Registrars and District Registrar have to perform duties as Registrar of Money-lenders. The Co-operative Officers under them act as Inspectors of Money-lenders. The main work of the Assistant District Registrars is to conduct inquiries into applications for licences for money-lending and forward them with their reports to the District Registrar, Bhavnagar. On receipt of the applications together with reports, the District Registrar, may grant or refuse the licences after scrutiny on merits. In cases of breach of Sections 18 and 19, the District Registrar is empowered to compound the offences under Section 35(c) of the Act. The duties of the District Registrar are also to find out illegal money-lending business and make inquiries into complaints received.

Industrial Co-operatives and Cottage Industries

The Cottage Industries section as a separate section of the Co-operative Department came into existence in 1960 after the formation of the new State

of Gujarat. Cottage Industries came to be looked after by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies who is also the Director of Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives. At the head office he is assisted in the work of industrial co-operatives by a (1) Deputy Registrar, (2) Deputy Development Officer for Handicrafts, (3) Engineer for Cottage Industries, (4) Technical Officer for Leather Industries, (5) Assistant Directors for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries (Khadi and Village Industries) and (6) Textile Officer.

The District Registrar and the two Assistant District Registrars under him, one each at Palitana and Mahuva are in charge of all the activities of the Co-operative Department including cottage industries. On the industrial side their main functions are: (1) organisation of Industrial Co-operatives, (2) inspection and supervision of Industrial Co-operatives and Training-*cum* Production centres, (3) scrutiny of loan applications of societies and artisans, (4) inquiry into complaints, (5) guidance to societies and individual artisans in their difficulties, (6) representing service cases and problems to the authorities concerned, and (7) maintaining close contact with the working of societies, etc., for the proper development of cottage industries.

Under the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act 1961, the Assistant District Registrar, has been given powers to register all types of industrial co-operative societies including women's societies except the following which are to be registered by the officers shown against them: (1) District Industrial Banks—Deputy Registrars, (2) District Industrial Association—Deputy Registrars, (3) Industrial Estates—Deputy Registrars, (4) Federation at District level—Deputy Registrars, (5) Forest Labourers' Societies—District Registrars and (6) Labour Contract Societies—District Registrars.

District Industrial Co-operative Association Limited, Bhavnagar

The District Industrial Co-operative Association Limited for the district was registered on 6th March, 1959 with its head office in Bhavnagar. In 1962 it had a membership of 53 industrial societies, 4 other societies and 45 individuals. The main functions of the Association are to supervise and guide the affiliated societies. The Association arranges to carry out a survey of cottage and village industries existing, and capable of development in the district, and for this purpose, it has to take stock of raw materials available in the area, technical guidance and skilled labour available for the development of industries, transport and marketing facilities and other favourable factors conducive to the development of cottage industries. The Association after collecting the necessary data, suggests concrete schemes for the development of industries either by organising industrial co-operatives or by undertaking production activities itself. The Bhavnagar District Industrial Association has undertaken the following activities : (1) distribution of yarn to primary weavers' societies, (2) distribution of raw ivory to artisans, (3) promotion of cottage

industries, and (4) opening sales depots and emporia for the purpose. The Board of Directors of this Association consists of 15 members, six from industrial societies affiliated to the Association, one from other societies, two individual members, two sympathiser members, Chairman of the central financing agency, a representative of the State Industrial Co-operative Association, Assistant Director of Cottage Industries and District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhavnagar.

District Training Service Institute

There is a District Training Service Institute in this district having head-quarters at Bhavnagar. It has three departments, viz., smithy, carpentry and leather.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

The Directorate of Industries is the agency through which the industrial policy of the State Government is implemented. The Directorate looks after the large scale as well as organised small scale industries. In confirmity with the government policy, the department assists industrialists in securing land, water, raw materials, power and other requirements. It gives them technical advice and also furnishes information in respect of raw materials, processes of manufacture and industrial potentialities. It conducts investigations and research in technical problems relating to industries. Grant of financial assistance, purchase of stores for government departments, enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act and administration of controls regarding distribution of raw materials for industries are some of its other activities.

The Deputy Director of Industries, Rajkot, a class I Officer of the Gujarat Industrial Service is in charge of industrial development activities in the districts of Rajkot region inclusive of Kutch and Banaskantha districts. At the district level, the Industries Officer is assisted by Industries Inspectors posted at Bhavnagar and Savarkundla.

Among the important activities carried out by the Deputy Director of Industries, Rajkot, the issue of the essentiality certificates for the import of raw materials as well as capital goods come foremost. He is empowered to issue certificates worth Rs. 2 lakhs annually. The issue of allotment certificates to steel processing industries and foundries for their requirement of steel is also attended to by him. Moreover, he looks after the allotment of cement to the industrial units in his region and also functions as Assistant State Coal Controller for the distribution of coal and coke in the district.

As stated above, the Deputy Director is in charge of the growth and development of organised small scale industries in his region. These units have to face many problems and finance is one of them. Financial aid is rendered to such units by advancing them loans under the State Aid to

Industries Rules for the construction of buildings, godowns and other works necessary for industrial operation and also for the purchase of raw materials. Loans up to Rs. 10,000 are granted by the Director of Industries and loans over Rs. 10,000 are granted by the Gujarat State Financial Corporation as an agent of the State Government. The Deputy Director of Industries, Rajkot, looks after cases pertaining to his region and sends his recommendations to the head office after necessary investigations and scrutiny. The Deputy Director is empowered to recommend applications seeking aid up to Rs. 30,000 for implementing the hire-purchase schemes worked by the National Small Industries Corporation. For applications above Rs. 30,000, he carries out investigations and forwards his remarks to the head office. He also investigates applications of small scale units for registration with National Small Industries Corporation, New Delhi, and with the Director General, Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi, and forwards them with necessary recommendations to the authorities concerned. The Deputy Director looks after industrial estates and attends to work pertaining to the grant of subsidy on consumption of electric power by small scale units of his region. Entrepreneurs having a connected load not exceeding 20 h.p. and paying electric charges at rates exceeding 9 paise per kW. are registered for the grant of this subsidy. He is responsible for the administration of the Bombay Weights and Measures Enforcement Act, 1958 and the Rules framed thereunder. Under these Acts and Rules, Industries Inspectors collect fees for verification and re-verification of weights and measures, inspect instruments of weights and measurements, stamping them if found correct and sanction prosecutions for breaches of the Act. The Deputy Director looks after the collection of quarterly production statistics under the Industrial Undertakings (Collection of Statistics and Information) Rules 1959, the operation of which is limited to factories registered under the Factory Act and not employing more than 50 workers using power and not more than 100 workers without power.

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION

District Information Officer

The District Information Officer of the Directorate of Information, Gujarat State, is stationed at Bhavnagar. He acts as a link between government offices and the press, keeps himself in touch with officers of various departments in the district and issues to the press news items which supply factual information on schemes and activities of the government in the district. He also organises visits of pressmen to various development works as and when considered necessary and organises Press Conferences to provide an opportunity to the press to get first-hand knowledge of the subject to be covered. He acts as a correspondent of the Directorate of Information, Gujarat State, and covers on its behalf working of government schemes and activities, press conferences, etc.

As in every other district of the State, a Mobile Publicity Van is put in charge of the District Information Officer, Bhavnagar. The van is equipped

with a 16 mm. projector. It is taken round in the district and film shows and talks which are both instructive and entertaining are arranged on various nation-building activities such as agriculture, cattle improvement, health, prohibition, untouchability, small savings, education, Five Year Plans, etc. He keeps the rural folk informed of the concessions and facilities offered to them by government and also distributes leaflets, pamphlets, posters, etc., on items of public interest.

Broadcasting

All-India Radio, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Bhuj broadcasts daily in the evening, a programme in Gujarati specially for the rural listeners. The Government of Gujarat has installed community receiving sets in some of the villages of this district. These sets are maintained and repaired by the Supervisor who is stationed at Bhavnagar.

An Information Centre has been started at Bhavnagar where books, periodicals, charts, etc., bearing on the Five Year Plans and its progress are displayed.

DISTRICT STATISTICAL OFFICER, BUREAU OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

The Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Ahmedabad, is the apex office concerned with the collection and compilation of statistical data so very essential for the planning and development programmes of the State. It has a statistical office in each district under a District Statistical Officer who is responsible for improving the quality of the basic statistics at the district level. The District Statistical Officer now functions under the District Development Officer after the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

INTRODUCTION

The earliest information about local self-government in the area is available from the records pertaining to the Valabhi kingdom. The *gram* or the village was the smallest administrative unit of the Maitrakas which provided an excellent example of local self-government during that period which has persisted to the present times in the form of gram panchayat. The village administration was carried on by the *Gramkuta* or head of the village assisted by the *Mahattara* who was regarded as village elder. In addition to these two functionaries, it is possible that there existed an assembly called *Sabha* which rendered assistance in the work of administration. "The duties of this assembly were to look after the sale and purchase of land, the control of the local taxation, the organisation of fairs, etc. Members of the *Sabha* also acted as trustees of the village property. This position of trust was due to the fact that whenever a grant was made, the donor entrusted it to these men."[1] After the fall of Valabhi dynasty in about second half of the 8th century (A.D. 766) the process of disintegration followed and feudalism had its sway in the Saurashtra peninsula.

Feudalism and local self-government go ill together. It is no wonder, therefore, that except Bhavnagar and Palitana States no other States comprising the territories of Bhavnagar district had village panchayats or municipalities. The civic life of the community consequently continued to remain at a very low ebb. Essential services such as sanitation, water supply, drainage, town planning, etc., were absent in many places. Before the integartion of States in the Union of Saurashtra, the Bhavnagar ruler had taken certain liberal and pioneering steps in establishing institutions like municipalities and panchayats in the State.

MUNICIPALITIES

Prior to 1872 a beginning in respect of municipal administration was made by appointing a municipal committee of officials and non-officials for the city of Bhavnagar. The committee was constituted under the minority administration headed by Mr. Percival and Shri Gaurishanker Oza. Both these gentlemen acted as joint presidents of the Bhavnagar municipality. The municipal committee attended to matters like lighting, surface cleaning, and repairs to and watering of roads. Under the then existing Municipal Act, all expenditure on account of these works was borne by the State.

The Bhavnagar Municipal Act with certain amendments was applied to Mahuva, Kundla, Botad, and Sihor in 1875 and to Gadhada, Liliya, Rajula,

1. VIRJI K. J., *Ancient History of Saurashtra*, p. 241

Talaja and Umrala in 1894. The Revenue Commissioner or *Vasulati Adhikari* of the State was the president of all the mahal municipalities and the *Vahivatdars* were the vice-presidents of their respective mahal municipalities. In 1890, the Chief Executive Engineer of the State was appointed president of all the mahal municipalities. The municipal administration thus functioned as one of the departments of the State in the initial stages of local self-government. Pursuant to the recommendations of a committee appointed in 1923, the Act was amended on the lines of the Bombay Municipal Act, 1901 by providing for universal adult suffrage in Bhavnagar city which received a lump sum grant of Rs. 95,000 from the Darbar, in addition to the right to levy certain taxes. In pursuance of the liberal policy of the Bhavnagar Darbar in respect of municipalities, the State vested in them all the vacant lands in municipal areas, so that the sale proceeds of such lands could be utilised by the municipalities for providing urban amenities to the public. Municipal rules were also applied to Dhola Vishi, a railway junction, and its administration placed under the Revenue Department.

With the formation of the State of Saurashtra, the question of establishing municipalities in places having population of more than 5,000 was examined and a committee was appointed to draft municipal laws to suit local conditions. Pursuant to its recommendations, the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, 1925 was applied to Bhavnagar and other cities having a population of one lakh and over and the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901 to the rest of the areas.

Prior to the implementation of Gujarat Panchayats Act in 1963 there were 12 municipalities in the district, viz., Bhavnagar, Botad, Gadhada, Gariadhar, Savarkundla, Mahuva, Palitana, Paliyad, Sihor. Talaja. Umrala and Vallabhipur. The Democratic Decentralisation Committee appointed by the State Government recommended formation of gram panchayats at places having population of 10,000 and below, and nagar panchayats at places having population between 10,000 to 30,000. This recommendation was accepted and on the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 the number of municipalities was reduced to 5, namely, Bhavnagar, Botad, Mahuva, Palitana and Savarkundla and the rest were converted into nagar panchayat or gram panchayats. Municipalities in Gujarat are now being governed by the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963, which came into force from 1st January, 1965. It provides for elected councillors and reservation of seats for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Every municipality, constituted under this Act, is vested with functions relating to the provision of water supply, drainage, lighting, disposal of night-soil and rubbish, medical aid, care of the sick at the time of outbreak of epidemics, extinguishing fires, protection of life and property of the people and registration of vital statistics.

The Act empowers a municipality to levy taxes on buildings, lands, vehicles, water supply and drainage, lighting, etc., octroi on animals or goods, sanitary cess and a special cess on education.

BHAVNAGAR BOROUGH MUNICIPALITY

Municipal administration in Bhavnagar city dates back to the year 1872. The area of the Bhavnagar municipality was 53.30 sq. km. in 1963-64 and its population according to the Census of 1961 is 171,039. The city is divided into 12 wards. Out of 36 elected members, two seats are reserved for ladies and two for Scheduled Castes.

The municipality discharges its functions through various municipal committees, viz., (1) Executive Committee, (2) Public Health Committee, (3) Bus Traffic and Garrage Committee, and (4) Public Works Committee. The Chief Officer is the executive head of the municipality.

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the municipality excluding the opening balance was Rs. 3,825,020 in 1961-62. Important sources of revenue are rates and taxes Rs. 2,315,474; income under special Act Rs. 2,036; revenue from municipal property and power Rs. 648,248 and grants and contribution for general and special purposes Rs. 278,264. The contribution from 'Miscellaneous' items amounted to Rs. 590,998.

The total expenditure of the municipality was Rs. 5,309,071 for the same year. The major items of expenditure are: general administration and collection charges Rs. 828,764; public safety Rs. 214,114; public health and convenience Rs. 2,402,844; contribution for general purposes Rs. 187,362 and miscellaneous Rs. 518,262. The incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 13·54 and expenditure per head of population was Rs. 24.27.

The major activities of the municipality may be considered as under :

Water Supply

The city had its first water works, when Gaurishanker lake was constructed some two miles south-west of the city. In 1887 Sir Takhtasinhji connected the lake by a twenty inch main with the heart of Bhavnagar town. These works were called "Victoria Jubilee Works". In 1911-12 five filter beds were constructed with a reservoir called "Sandhurst Service Reservoir". Subsequently in order to meet the growing needs of the city another lake was constructed at Khodiar in 1933-34. This also was found insufficient. At present the city gets its water supply from Gaurishanker lake, Khodiar lake and Sihor lake.

The municipality has the Paterson Filtration Plant having a battery of 8 filter beds. The first two beds were constructed in the year 1934, four more in the year 1940 and the last two in 1964. The total cost of all the beds was Rs. 854,695. Water is treated by alum and chlorine. The daily supply of water is 30 gallons per head. The municipality has made provision for 217 public hydrants and 82 fire hydrants.

Conservancy and Drainage

The surface area of roads is cleaned twice every day. The number of sweepers employed was 559 in 1963. For the removal of night-soil and sullage, a modern sewage disposal plant and three pumping stations have been installed. The manure collected in the disposal plant is sold by public auction and the effluent water is distributed to nearby farms. The annual income derived from the sale of manure was Rs. 30,000 in 1963.

A comprehensive scheme of providing drains for the city of Bhavnagar consists of

1 Drainage of rain-water with its outfall going out into the main Bandar creek and

2 Sewers for the disposal of waste water of the city by the Activated Sludge method. Most of the major works connected with drainage, such as outfall sewers, main sewers, pumping stations, etc., were completed in 1940-41.

Fire Brigade

The fire brigade has three fire engines in charge of a trained Fire Brigade Superintendent.

Roads

The total length of roads maintained by the municipality is 186·68 km. of which 86·90 km. are asphalted, 83·69 km. are metalled and 16·09 km. unmetalled. Avenues of trees are maintained by the municipality which has a regular programme of planting one hundred trees every year. Roads 45·05 km. in length are watered by a motor pump tanker.

Gardens

Gardens maintained by the municipality are (1) Sardar Bag, (2) Mahila Bag, (3) Town Hall garden, (4) Kailas Vatika, (5) Diamond Chowk garden and (6) Thakkar Bapa garden. Kailas Vatika and children's park (Bal-Ghar) constructed near the Gaurishanker lake enhances the beauty of its surrounding. The garden extends over a fairly large area and provides varied attractions to the children to play and enjoy. Inside the garden is a 'Boot House' (a structure of cement concrete in the shape of a shoe) with a staircase within from where children can reach the top and have a view of the surrounding area. In addition to these gardens a swimming bath located in the old filtration ground is taken advantage of by the public in the summer season.

Markets

The municipality has constructed a number of markets in different localities. Important among them are the New Vegetable Market, Jogiawad Vegetable Market, Palidar Market and Mutton and Fish Market. The New

Market which has 250 stalls is situated in the heart of the town and provided with all the modern conveniences such as water taps, a place for washing vegetables, dustbin for filthy materials, etc. The annual income derived from all the municipal markets exceeds Rs. 1 lakh.

Harijan Housing

The municipality has constructed houses for its *Harijan* employees which are given to them without charging rent. It has provided 212 units for *Harijans* and 19 for non-*Harijans*.

Education

Bhavnagar municipal authorities took over control of primary schools situated within the municipal limits from 1st January, 1966. They pay a grant of Rs. 6,000 to Barton Library, maintain four radio sets in public gardens and impart civic education to the public through films and a propaganda van.

Bus Services

Since 1948 the municipality operates its own bus service on nine routes in the city.

BOTAD MUNICIPALITY

Botad had its first municipality in 1874. The total area of the municipality was 8 sq. km. in 1963-64 and its population according to the Census of 1961 is 26,168. The municipality consists of 25 members. Two seats are reserved for women and two for Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the municipality was Rs. 481,597 in 1961-62 of which Rs. 268,713 were obtained by way of 'Rates and Taxes'. Revenue derived from municipal property and power amounted to Rs. 57,547, while grants and contribution for general and special purposes accounted for Rs. 150,617. Contribution from 'Miscellaneous' items amounted to Rs. 4,720. The total expenditure of the municipality was Rs. 1,067,844 in the same year. Some of the specific heads under which expenditure was incurred are (a) General administration and collection charges Rs. 52,786, (b) Public safety Rs. 42,642, (c) Public health and convenience Rs. 205,614, (d) Public instruction Rs. 9,122, (e) Contribution for general purposes Rs. 10,300 and (f) Miscellaneous Rs. 42,495. The incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 10.27 and expenditure per head was Rs. 13.87 in 1961-62.

Following are the major activities of the municipality: (1) water supply, (2) public health, (3) conservancy and drainage, (4) public safety, (5) market and (6) education.

Water Supply

The scheme for piped water supply is nearing completion. At present the water is drawn from one well which has been built in an upstream near Krishnasagar lake at Botad. The water flows into a tank, and is then supplied to the town by hume pipes. The daily supply of water is 6 gallons per head. The municipality has provided two hydrants for public use and 15 hydrants for fire, besides giving private connections to the public.

Conservancy and Drainage

Municipality undertakes the work of cleaning the roads measuring 2,787 sq. metres. 50 sweepers are employed for this purpose. Since 1959 underground drainage system has been introduced in the town. The disposal of sewage is arranged outside the town. Night-soil is removed by contract system and disposed off in compost pits.

Public Safety

Municipality maintains a Fire Brigade. It has one fire engine. Street lighting is carried out by the Project Committee of the municipality.

Municipal Market

The municipality maintains one vegetable market.

Roads

The total length of road, under the municipal jurisdiction is 46.15 km. of which asphalted roads claim 4.26 km., cement concrete 3.81 km., metalled 1.16 km., and unmetalled 36.92 km. Municipality has planted 50 trees by road side.

Education and Recreation

Municipality gives an yearly grant of Rs. 3,000 to Shri Takhtasinhji library and a grant of Rs. 1,200 to *Mahila Mandal.* It maintains one garden and proposes to construct another.

MAHUVA MUNICIPALITY

The municipality in Mahuva was established in the year 1875 by the former Bhavnagar State. The area of the municipality was 3.34 sq. km. in 1963-64 and its population according to the Census of 1961 is 31,668. At present the municipal body consists of 19 councillors. One seat in the civic body is reserved for women and one for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the municipality excluding the opening balance was Rs. 1,056,962 in 1961-52 out of which rates and taxes accounted for Rs. 346,501, realisation under special Act Rs. 14,972, revenue derived from municipal property and power Rs. 344,662 and grants and contribution for

general and special purposes Rs. 350,827. The total expenditure in the same year was Rs. 2,982,021. Following are the major items on which expenditure was incurred: general administration and collection charges Rs. 101,948, public safety Rs. 29,576, public health and convenience Rs. 955,926 and public instruction Rs. 9,788. The incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 10.94, while the expenditure per head of population was Rs. 39.13.

Following are the major activities undertaken by the municipality, viz., water supply, public health, conservancy and drainage, public safety, public convenience, education and recreation.

Water Supply

The municipality has arranged for piped water supply. Under the new water supply scheme which is nearing completion an overhead tank with a capacity of 25,000 gallons has been constructed. Two turbine pumping sets having a total capacity of 60,000 gallons per hour have been installed. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 1,630,000. The daily supply of water per head is 16 gallons.

Public Health

The municipality runs the following health institutions :

1 A 100 bedded General Hospital
2 A Maternity Hospital
3 A Nursing School
4 One Anti-Rabic Treatment Centre
5 A Blood Bank
6 Three Outdoor Dispensaries
7 Two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres
8 One Family Planning Centre

Conservancy and Drainage

The total area of the roads cleaned by municipality is 20,087 sq. metres. 110 sweepers are employed to collect refuse in 80 *pucca* dustbins of Rajula stones. The drainage scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 1,708,200. In the absence of underground drainage the system of cess pools is prevalent. The night-soil is disposed off for preparing manure.

Public Safety

Fire Brigade is maintained by the municipality. The equipment consists of one fire extinguisher and two tankers of 700 gallons capacity each, with suction and delivery pumps.

Roads

The total length of the roads maintained by the municipality is 59.55 km., out of which cement concrete accounts for 3.22 km., asphalted 11.27, metalled 17.70 and unmetalled 27·36 km. Road watering is undertaken during summer.

Education and Recreation

The municipality runs two social education classes, and has underaken the responsibility of primary education with effect from 1st July, 1965. The municipality gives Rs. 2,000 as grant to public library every year. Two parks are maintained by the municipality.

PALITANA MUNICIPALITY

Palitana, which is a municipal town, had an area of 12.95 sq. km. in 1963-64 and its population according to the Census of 1961 is 24,581. The ex-Government of Saurashtra had managed the municipality till 31st March, 1950. Subsequently the municipality started functioning after the regular election took place. The municipality, however, had shown poor performance in the administration of its affairs. This was partly due to meagre resources and political factions which rendered administration difficult. The municipality is superceded since December 1960. The Administrator discharges all the functions of the municiplaity. He is assisted by the Chief Officer who performs all the executive functions.

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the municipality in the year 1961-62 excluding the opening balance was Rs. 322,354. The municipal rates and taxes accounted for Rs. 194,221; realisation under special Act Rs. 1,775; revenue from municipal property and powers Rs. 50,254; grants and contributions Rs. 71,301; and miscellaneous Rs. 4,803. The expenditure incurred for the same year was Rs. 654,339 as contributed by the following major heads, viz., general administration and collection charges Rs. 55,978; public safety Rs. 10,103; public health and convenience Rs. 169,628; public instruction Rs. 1,945 and miscellaneous Rs. 9,746.

The incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 7.90 while expenditure per head of population was Rs. 10.02 in the year 1961-62. Water supply, public health, conservancy and drainage and public safety are the chief items of activities of the municipality.

Water Supply

According to the arrangement made by the former ruler, water is drawn at present from six different wells, pumped into seven tanks and distributed in the town through pipe lines. The daily supply of water per head is 8 gallons. The major water supply scheme which is in progress is estimated to cost Rs. 18 lakhs. According to this scheme the water will be drawn from the infiltration gallaries (wells) from the 'Shetrunji Dam'.

Public Health

The municipality maintains one Ayurvedic Dispensary. The expenditure incurred on its maintenance was Rs. 4,000 in 1963. The municipality also maintains some beds in the T. B. Hospital at Amargadh.

Conservancy and Drainage

The surface area of roads cleaned twice every day is 118,519 sq. metres. The refuse is collected in 30 wooden dustbins covered with galvanised iron sheets and used for preparation of compost manure. The income derived from its sale was Rs. 10,000 in 1963. Special drainage system for carrying night-soil does not exist in the town. Part of the town in the Sindhi Colony area is covered with open surface drains, carrying sullage water only. The portion from Dharamshala to Utavali-Nalla is also served by drain which carries sullage water.

Public Safety

The municipality maintains one tanker with a pump and a fire extinguisher. The health service staff is in charge of these equipments. The street-lighting of Palitana is carried out through the power house worked by Gujarat Electricity Board.

Roads

The total length of the roads maintained by the municipality is 48.28 km. The length of the asphalted roads is 4.83 km. of the metalled roads 24.14 km. and of the unmetalled roads 19.31 km. The municipality possesses one road roller and a tractor-trailer. Roads are watered by the municipality by a motor truck.

Markets

Two vegetable markets are maintained by the municipality at the average annual cost of Rs. 1,500.

Education and Recreation

The municipality pays to the district panchayat Rs. 56,000 from 1st April, 1963 as contribution to primary education, besides Rs. 500 to *Bal Mandir* and *Mahila Mandal* in form of grants. Two gardens are managed by the municipality.

SAVARKUNDLA MUNICIPALITY

This municipality was established in 1875 by the former Bhavnagar State. The area of the municipality was 2.59 sq. km. in 1963-64 and its population according to the Census of 1961 is 30,122. The total number of councillors is 19 with reservation of one seat each for women and Scheduled Castes.

Income and Expenditure

The total income of the municipality excluding the opening balance was Rs. 453,250 in the year 1961-62. Out of the total income, rates and taxes accounted for Rs. 312,477; revenue derived from municipal property and power Rs. 95,436; grants and contribution for general and special purposes

Rs. 37,332 and miscellaneous Rs. 8,005. The total expenditure of the municipality in the same year was Rs. 738,856. The major items on which the expenditure was incurred are as follows :

General administration and collection charges Rs. 64,555; public safety Rs. 46,127; public health and convenience Rs. 204,137 and public instruction Rs. 6,858. The incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 10.37 and expenditure per head of population was Rs. 12.63.

The major activities of the municipality are water supply; public health; conservancy and drainage and education and recreation. A brief description of these activities is given below.

Water Supply

The river Navli and the wells are the main sources of water supply. Of late government has approved a water supply scheme, which is likely to be completed at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 915,000. The present arrangement consists of 9 electric motor pumping stations with storage tanks near the wells.

Conservancy and Drainage

Entire length of the road within the jurisdiction of the municipality is cleaned twice every day. Refuse is collected in 85 dustbins. The municipality has not introduced water-carriage and underground drainage system. At present there are about 100 cess pools in different localities of the town, where dirty water is collected and removed with the help of tractor-tanker.

Public Safety

The municipality possesses one fire trolly pump and two tractor tankers for extinguishing fire.

Roads

The total length of the roads under the charge of the municipality is 20.92 km., of which 3.22 km., are asphalted, 6.44 km., metalled and 11.26 km. unmetalled. 155 trees planted in the town are looked after by the municipality. Roads are watered occasionally. The municipality has constructed in Savar area a cremation centre, namely, *Savar Smashan* which has a garden and statues of religious personages.

Education and Recreation

The municipality runs two libraries. One radio set with two amplifiers and loudspeakers has been installed by the municipality in a room located on the main gate of the market. Ten extra loudspeakers are placed in different localities in the town for public benefit. A well laid out garden called 'Janata garden' and a swimming pool located nearby are the important recreation centres provided by the municipality.

Town Planning Scheme.

The Town Planning Scheme devised and executed by the former Bhavnagar State for the extension of the city on modern lines deserves special mention. At the instance of Bhavnagar Darbar, Mr. G. B. Soparkar of the Bombay Government prepared a town planning scheme for the extension of Bhavnagar city. A site to the south-east of the city admeasuring about 1,500 acres estimated to house 48,000 persons was selected for the purpose. The Darbar thereafter created a separate Town Planning Department with special revenue and municipal functions. In order that the poor and middle class people could take advantage of the scheme, loans were advanced on easy rates of interest. Any person finding 20 per cent of the cost of the building could obtain the remaining 80 per cent by way of loan from the Darbar, repayable in easy annual instalments spread over a period of 12 years. The present expansion of the city owes much to this scheme, the salient features of which are given below :

1 Land was given on freehold basis or on lease. Loan to the extent of 80 per cent of the total valuation of the property was advanced in instalments according to the progress of constructions. In case of freehold land, its value was also taken into account at the time of assessment.

2 A loanee had to deposit 5 per cent of the loan as earnest money which was to be adjusted in the last instalment payable by him.

3 The property was to be insured and the policy assigned to the Bhavnagar Darbar Bank.

4 The property was mortgaged with the Darbar Bank till the payment of the last instalment due.

5 The loan was to be repaid in equal instalments within a period not exceeding twelve years. But the loanee was at liberty to repay the amount even before the expiry of this period.

6 In case of default in the payment of instalments due, the bank was to issue one month's notice. In the event of loanee's failure to make payment he was required to pay interest at the rate of one per cent per month on such defaulted payments.

7 In case of contingency the loanee was granted permission to sell the property provided that he agreed to pay the remaning amount from the sale proceeds of the property or on the condition of payment being assured by the new purchaser.

Houses in the town planning areas were to be constructed with an open space not less than three times the built up area, with ample provision for ventilation and light. In the open area so kept, gardens, lawns, wells,

fountain, pipeline and porch were to be constructed. The well planned residential localities of Takhteshwar and Krishnanagar bear ample testimony to the successful implementation of the town planning scheme during the former State regime.

Panchayats

Village panchayats were brought into existence by the former Bhavnagar State even prior to the formation of Saurashtra State under the Council Resolution of 1929. "The question of granting local panchayats as a means of making the village self-reliant and self-governing engaged the early attention of the Darbar. It was, however, intended that no ready-made constitution from without should be imposed upon the people, but that a system which was adapted to local enviornments and which was suitable both to the State and people, should be evolved from a series of experiments."[1] Therefore, a Village Panchayat Code was framed and promulgated in 1929 under which any village was free to ask for a panchayat. It prescribed a general pattern but the villages were nevertheless free to modify it, if they chose to do so with the approval of the Darbar.

Bhavnagar State Village Panchayats Act

This Act was enacted in 1943. According to the provisions of the Act the establishment of a panchayat was entirely voluntary. The panchayat consisted of not less than 10 and not more than 11 members including revenue and police patels. Out of these at least 4 members were to be literate. 80 per cent of the members were to be agriculturists. The meeting of the village people was to be held once in every three months in which the president of the panchayat presented a report of the work done. The panchayat was also authorised to recover current or past revenue dues in accordance with the revenue rules in force. Among the wide powers conferred on the panchayat one worth mention was : Any person who hampered the progress and peace of the village was liable to be expelled from the village by the panchayat. An appeal against such an order lay with the *Mahal Vahivatdar*, higher revenue officers and finally to the *Huzur* Court, Revenue Division.

Saurashtra Gram Panchayats Ordinance, 1949

After the formation of the State of Saurashtra, in their first policy announcement the government declared their intention of establishing gram panchayats in villages. With this object in view the Saurashtra Gram Panchayats Ordinance was promulgated in 1949. It was a special enactment framed against the background of the abject subservience to which villages were subjected in the past.

According to the Ordinance, a panchayat could be established in a village prescribed by the government having a population of over 2,000 and

1. Bhavnagar State, *Administration Report*, 1929-30

below 10,000. The panchayat was an autonomous body elected from the village assembly of adult residents of the village. A full fledged panchayat functioned not only as an administrative and civil body of the village but also as the revenue collecting agency on behalf of the government and a local judiciary for petty criminal offences and civil wrongs.

On the basis of their efficiency, the village panchayats were classified into 'A', 'B' and 'C' classes and functions delegated to them differed according to the class to which they belonged. The 'C' class panchayats had all the administrative powers and duties which were very extensive and did not leave out anything concerned with the civic life of the village. The 'B' class panchayats had additional powers and duties for the collection of land revenue, wider powers to try some cases under the Indian Penal Code, the Cattle Trespass Act and the Vaccination Act. The 'A' class panchayats in addition tried suits for money due on personal loans and contracts not affecting any interest in immovable property when the amount did not exceed Rs. 100.

The main sources of revenue for the panchayats was share in land revenue granted by the government. Prior to 1st April, 1956, 'A', 'B' and 'C' class panchayats got respectively an annual grant of 30 per cent, 25 per cent and 13½ per cent of the land revenue collected in the villages. From 1st April, 1956, this was raised to 33 per cent, 30 per cent and 25 per cent respectively for those 'A', 'B' and 'C' class panchayats, which levied either octroi or house tax. After the reorganisation of States in 1956, the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 was passed to provide a unified law in place of various legislation in existence in different parts of the State. This Act became operative from 1st June, 1957. According to it panchayats were divided into two classes 'A' and 'B' and the scale of grant-in-aid was also revised and fixed at 30 and 25 per cent respectively.

Saurashtra Gram Panchayat Madhyastha Mandal

By an amendment in 1950, a statutory body called the Saurashtra Gram Panchayat Madhyastha Mandal, was established for encouraging the formation of panchayats and looking after and guiding the development and working of the panchayat institutions.

The Saurashtra Gram Panchayat Madhyastha Mandal was composed of the Minister for Local Self-Government, the Chief Secretary, the Secretary of Revenue Department, the Chief Panchayat Officer and five other members, one from each district nominated (from among the members of the Legislative Assembly) by the government. Collectors of all the districts and seven other members nominated by the government from the whole of Saurashtra were added to the Mandal or Board. The Board was thus, composed of 21 members and presided over by the Minister for Local Self-Government. The members held office for two years. The general meeting was held once in two months. A committee of seven members called the

Executive Committee was constituted to transact business for the Board. It was competent to exercise all the powers and duties of the Central Board and appoint committees.

District Panchayat and District Local Boards

The District Panchayat Board was established under the Saurashtra District Panchayats Act, 1956 with a view to make the rural population take active interest in the administration of their day-to-day affairs as well as for taking speedy measures for tackling local problems like public health, primary education, medical care, water supply, etc. The functions of the Board were divided into obligatory and discretionary. The obligatory functions included the construction and repair of roads, markets, *dharmashalas* and other public buildings, public tanks, wells and vaccination. The discretionary functions were very wide and included a number of activities under agriculture, animal husbandry, education and village industries.

The District Panchayat Board started functioning from May 1956. The Board consisted of 23 *ex-officio* and nominated members. After the formation of the bilingual State of Bombay in 1956 the Bombay Local Boards Act was fully applied to Saurashtra in place of the Saurashtra District Panchayats Act and as a consequence the District Panchayat Board was replaced in 1960 by District Local Board in the districts of Saurashtra. The Bhavnagar District Panchayat thus came to be renamed as Bhavnagar District Local Board from 11th April, 1960.

The District Local Board was constituted of 35 members. Total income and expenditure of the Board during 1960-61 were Rs. 1,655,289 and Rs. 1,223,927 respectively. The main sources of income were civil works, local rates, medical and land revenue and the major heads of expenditure were civil and public works and medical.

DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION

The proposals of the Planning Commission for the Second Five Year Plan, as accepted by the Parliament, stressed, "the need for creating within the district a well organised democratic structure of administration in which the village panchayats will be organically linked with popular organisation at a higher level. In such a structure the functions of the popular body would include the entire general administration and developement of the area, other than such functions as law and order, administration of justice and certain functions pertaining to the revenue administration." With this background before it the Balvantray Mehta Committee appointed to go into the question of the working of Community Projects and National Extension Service held that community development cannot progress without responsibility and power which would be possible only under a process of democratic decentralisation from village to district level. The committee further held that community development can be real only when the

community understands its problems, realises its responsibilities, exercises its necessary powers through its chosen representatives and maintains a constant and intelligent vigilance on local administration. With this object in view, they recommended an early establishment of statutory elective local bodies which alone could lead to effective rural development. They also recommended that necessary resources, powers and authority should be vested in such bodies. In effect Balvantray Mehta Committee recommended that if the experiment of democratic decentralistion were to yield maximum results, it was necessary that all the three tiers of the scheme, viz., Village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Jilla Parishad should be started at the same time and operated simultaneously in the whole district."[1] In May 1958, the National Development Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee with regard to "democratic decentralisation" and resolved that State Governments should accelerate the process for the establishment of democratic institutions functioning either at the village level or at the block or taluka level or district level. The process of democratisation should be completed as speedily as possible. As agreed in the meeting of the standing committee of the National Development Council in January 1958, the pattern of democratisation would be worked out by the State Governments in the light of their own conditions and requirements. As a consequence of this decision Government of Gujarat appointed a committee in July 1960 under the chairmanship of the Revenue Minister to study this question and to make recommendations for its implementation. The committee submitted its report on 31st December, 1960. These recommendations were incorporated in the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 which provided for a three tier system, viz., the gram/nagar panchayats which were already in existence at the lowest level, taluka panchayats at the taluka level and district panchayats at the district level.

The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961

Panchayat Raj was ushered in the districts of Gujarat on April 1, 1963 when taluka panchayats providing the middle tier of the democratic decentralisation scheme were formally inaugurated. The introduction of the scheme which vests in the elected bodies at all levels with wide powers and provides them with necessary funds and trained administrative personnel was completed with the formation of the State Panchayat Council on May 1, 1963.

Gram Panchayat

The gram sabha elects from among its members the executive body which is called gram panchayat when the population of the village does not exceed 10,000 but it is called a nagar panchayat when it exceeds 10,000 but not 30,000.

1. TRIVEDI R. K., *Census of India* 1961, Gujarat. Volume V, Part IA(i), *General Report on the Census*, pp. 128-129

The number of members of a gram panchayat varies from 9 to 15 including a Sarpanch and an Upa-Sarpanch and that of a nagar panchayat from 15 to 31 including a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. Provision has been made to reserve at least two seats for women and one seat for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Duties of a gram/nagar panchayat as scheduled in the Act relate to a variety of subjects covering sanitation, health, public works, primary education, law and order, planning, community development, cultural activities, etc. Collection of land revenue, maintenance of land records, and duties and functions of a village accountant are transferred to the gram/nagar panchayats. Provided its funds permit it has the discretion to take up certain other activities such as education, medical relief, promotion of social, economic and cultural well-being of the inhabitants of its area and arranging public receptions, ceremonies or entertainments within its jurisdiction.

Taluka Panchayat

The taluka panchayats has as its members Sarpanches of all gram panchayats, Chairmen of all nagar panchayats within the taluka as *ex-officio* members and about one-tenth of the number are elected by Chairmen of co-operative societies within the talukas. It co-opts as members, two women interested in welfare activities pertaining to women and children, two representatives of Scheduled Castes, two of Scheduled Tribes and two social workers of the area having practical experience of the matters pertaining to rural development. Local Members of Legislative Assembly, Mamlatdar of the taluka, Presidents of municipalities in the taluka and elected members of the district panchayat, ordinarily residing in the taluka are its associate members.

Functions of the taluka panchayat as scheduled in the Act range from subjects relating to sanitation, health, education, culture, social education, community development, agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, village and small scale industries, co-operation, women's welfare, social welfare, rural housing, and relief and pastures. As in the case of gram/nagar panchayats, a number of discretionary functions has been invested in taluka panchayats also.

District Panchayat

The district panchayat consists of (a) *ex-officio* members (presidents of all taluka panchayats in the district) and (b) elected members—(i) one person elected by each constituent taluka panchayat and (ii) persons elected directly.

District panchayat is vested with administrative and executive powers. It is responsible for establishing and maintaining dispensaries, public health centres and allied institutions. It has been entrusted with a wide range of educational activities. It manages primary education and uses the agency of taluka panchayats to supervise it. It co-ordinates and integrates community

development schemes and looks after development of irrigation, agriculture, animal husbandry, small scale industries and promotion of social welfare.

Other Provisions of the Act

A large number of functions such as registration of co-operative societies, approval of amendment to their bye-laws, calling of or extending the period for the calling of annual general meeting of co-operative societies and such other functions as under the Co-operative Societies Act were exercised by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, have also been transferred to district panchayats. Functions relating to agriculture, animal husbandry, public health and medical relief, social welfare, cottage industries and small scale industries and district statistical office, have been transferred on an agency basis to the district panchayats.

Administrative Machinery

In order to carry out various duties and functions entrusted to the district and taluka panchayats under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, and other Acts, a hierarchy of administrative machinery has been devised and experienced personnel transferred to man it. The District Development Officer is the chief executive officer for the district panchayat and so is the Taluka Development Officer at taluka level. In order to enable them to discharge their executive functions efficiently, these officers are given certain powers which are laid down in Sections 123 and 143 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961.

With the transfer of many of the departmental schemes and activities, a large number of district level functionaries have also been transferred to the district panchayat. These are: District Agriculture Officer; Administrative Officer (Education); District Health Officer; Ayurved Inspector; District Animal Husbandry Officer; District Social Welfare Officer; District Statistical Officer; Executive Engineer, Panchayats; Deputy Collector, Revenue; Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies; and District Project Officer.

At the taluka level, the Taluka Development Officer is assisted by Extension Officers in various fields, viz., agriculture, co-operation, industries, social education, etc. At the village level there is a Talati-*cum*-Secretary who looks after the collection of land revenue and maintenance of records of the gram panchayat.

Progress in the Establishment of Panchayats

In 1948, there were 129 village panchayats in the district which increased to 167 in 1950-51 and further rose to 741 in 1955-56. The target for the Second Plan was to bring the entire district under panchayat administration. At the end of the year 1963-64 the total number of panchayats including one nagar panchayat in the district was 820. The taluka panchayats numbered 12.

Cultural and Social Activities of the Panchayats

In 1960-61, 233 panchayats conducted night classes for social education, 624 panchayats have provided facilities for reading newspapers and periodicals and 200 village panchayats have set up both reading rooms and libraries. Nearly 50 village panchayats have Balmandir and Bal-Kridangan. Ras Mandlis and Bhajan Mandlis were organised in 325 villages. The panchayats completed 443 works of development between 1953-54 and 1960-61 at an aggregate cost of Rs. 994,189. Some of the panchayats have also done notable work in respect of upliftment of Backward Classes and removal of untouchability.

Sources of Income

The panchayats have been given necessary funds to execute all schemes transferred to them. The Act also provides for the levy of taxes and fees by the various tiers of panchayats. The gram and nagar panchayats are empowered to levy octroi, fair and entertainment tax, shops and hotel tax, cycle and animal driven vehicle tax, etc. Similarly the taluka panchayats can levy education cess, impose taxation to the extent of 15 per cent of the taxes levied by the gram and nagar panchayats and with a request to the government collect a surcharge not exceeding 15 per cent on the stamp-duty on sales, mortgages or leases executed within their jurisdiction. The district panchayat can levy taxes on all or any of the items included in the schedule for the gram or nagar panchayats but the same should not exceed 10 per cent of the tax levied or leviable by the latter. The district panchayat also, as in the case of taluka panchayat, can request government to levy a surcharge of 10 per cent on the stamp-duty.

In addition to grants for schemes transferred to the panchayats, the most important source of panchayat income is the revenue. The share of land revenue payable to them is determined by the government on an average of land revenue collected or recovered in village during the preceeding 3 years. 25 per cent of this amount is reserved for expenditure on pay and training, etc., of panchayat secretaries and 5 per cent for State Equalisation Fund. Of the remaining amount, 50 per cent are paid to village panchayats, 25 per cent to taluka panchayats, 10 per cent to district panchayats, 7½ per cent to District Equalisation Fund and 7½ per cent to District Gram Encouragement Fund. The Act empowers the State Government to levy cess on land revenue for the panchayats and hand over the collection to the district panchayats after deducting collection charges. At the rate of of 20 paise per rupee of land revenue this amount came to Rs. 665,032 in the year 1963-64 in the district.

Income and Expenditure of Gram, Taluka and District panchayats

From Statement XIV-1 given at the end of the Chapter, it is observed that the total income of gram panchayats, taluka panchayats and district panchayat was Rs. 3,060,347, Rs. 9,757,769·66 and Rs. 15,376,620·98 respectively.

In the year 1963-64 the income per head for gram panchayats was Rs. 2.74, Rs. 8.71 in case of taluka panchayats and Rs. 13.71 for the district panchayat.

Statement XIV.2 given at the end of the Chapter shows items on which the expenditure is incurred by gram panchayats, taluka panchayats and district panchayat.

Nyaya Panchayats

The provision for constituting Nyaya Panchayats was made in the Saurashtra Village Panchayats Ordinance, 1949, whereunder powers to try certain civil suits and criminal complaints under the Indian Penal Code were conferred. Cases under the House Trespass and Cattle Trespass Act also came within its purview. An appeal against the decision of the panchayat lay before the District Judge within 30 days of the judgement of the panchayat. Panchayats could not inflict any punishment by way of imprisonment but could only impose a fine up to Rs. 40.

The Nyaya Panchayat in the composite State of Bombay came to be formed under the new Gram Panchayats Act passed in 1958 and brought into operation in all the areas of the State from 2nd May, 1959. The Act permitted the establishment of a Nyaya Panchayat for a group of 5 or more than 5 villages. After the enactment of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 Nyaya Panchayats are established for nagar panchayats and for a group of 5 or more than 5 villages in case of gram panchayats. The Act also makes provision for a conciliation panch, whose fundamental duty is to settle disputes between parties. Nyaya Panchayat takes cognizance of and tries suits in respect of money due on contracts, recovery of movable property and suits whose value does not exceed two hundred and fifty rupees.

The Nyaya Panchayat also tries certain complaints under the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Bombay District Vaccination Act, 1892, Bombay Primary Education Act, 1947 and Saurashtra Primary Education Act, 1956 (Sections 29, 30, 93, 94, 95, 323 and 324). The Nyaya Panchayats are empowered to inflict maximum penalty in respect of offences triable by it.

In 1963-64 there were 152 Nyaya Panchayats in Bhavnagar district covering 5 to 7 panchayats under each of them.

STATEMENT XIV-1

Income of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat, 1963-64

I—Gram Panchayats

		Rs.
	1	2
1	Government Grants Land Revenue*	1,109,279.00
2	Gifts and Donations	998,180.00
3	Taxes and Fees, etc	952,888.00
	Total	**3,060,347.00**

II—Taluka Panchayats

	3	4
1	Government Grants [1]	3,361,384 9
2	Statutory Grants as land revenue grants	6,184,223.49
3	From District Panchayat's own Fund	212,161.22
	Total	**9,757,769,66**

III—District Panchayat

	5	6
1	Government Grants	7,948,922.34
2	Statutory Grants (Education and Medical)	1,978 929.46
3	Land Revenue	1,927,800,00
4	Local Fund Cess (Cess on Land)	520,969 18
	Total	**15,376,620.98**

Source :

District Development Officer, Bhavnagar

* Income of gram panchayats under column 2 is the amount of grant transferred by the taluka panchayat from its income shown under column 4

1. Income shown under column 4 as income of taluka panchayats is partially derived from the grant given by district panchayat.

STATEMENT XIV.2

Expenditure of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats, and District Panchayat, 1963-64

I—GRAM PANCHAYATS		Rs
1	Sanitation and Health	439,336.00
2	Public Works	1,125,498.00
3	Education and Culture	302,380.00
4	Administration	532,620.00
5	Welfare of People	71,288.00
6	Agriculture, Preservation of Forests and Animal Husbandry	70,000.00
7	Village and Cottage Industries	37,336.00
8	Collection of Land Revenue and Maintenance of Land Records	212,480.00
9	Village Defence, etc.	38,183.00
	Total	**2,829,127.00**

II—TALUKA PANCHAYATS		
1	Sanitation and Health	542,965.12
2	Public Works	201,320.28
3	Education and Culture	4,422,229.59
4	Administration	122,902.05
5	Welfare of People	21,439.45
6	Agriculture, Preservation of Forests and Animal Husbandry	597,403.32
7	Village and Cottage Industries	49,790.61
8	Collection of Land Revenue and Maintenance of Land Records	852,923.09
	Total	**6,810,973.51**

III—DISTRICT PANCHAYATS		
1	Sanitation and Health	126,649.32
2	Public Works	1,058,221.37
3	Education and Culture	222,708.09
4	Administration	138,499.46
5	Welfare of People	127,928.43
6	Agriculture, Preservation of Forests and Animal Husbandry	258,853.92
7	Village and Cottage Industries	84,509.87
8	Collection of Land Revenue and Maintenance of Land Records	151,584.04
	Total	2,768,955.40

Source :

District Development Officer, Bhavnagar

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

A—Education

Evidence about the early educational system prevalent in this region is available from the copper plate grants of the Maitraka period which go to establish that Valabhi had once been a celebrated seat of learning. Buddhist, Hindu and Jain institutions were patronised alike by the Maitraka rulers without any distinction.

BUDDHIST SYSTEM

Buddhist studies at Valabhi, however, had acquired unique fame at that time and vied with the sister university of Nalanda in the north. According to Hiuen Tsiang there were at Valabhi 100 Buddhist monasteries with 6,000 Brethren adherents of the Hinayana Sammatiya.[1] Such was the fame of the Valabhi university as a seat of advanced Buddhist studies that students from far and distant places went there after they had studied at Nalanda for 2 to 3 years. Famous monks like Acharya Sthirmati and Gunamati, pupils of Vasubandhu, the well-known pandit from Nalanda, came to Valabhi and resided there in a monastery outside the town.[2] The method of teaching was tutorial as well as professorial. The former prevailed in the primary and secondary and the latter in the higher stages of studies. Training was imparted on diverse subjects.

The secondary education consisted of such subjects as arts, metaphysics, logic, medicine, etc., which were continued at the university stage, which, in addition to Buddhist *shastras*, imparted training in the four Vedas, works on astronomy, geography, medical art, and arithmetic. The medium of instruction was Sanskrit and Prakrit. Education was free. There were equal opportunities of studies for the rich and the poor in the Buddhist *viharas*, where the students lived a simple and disciplined but peaceful and intellectual life.

HINDU SYSTEM

Though not a single copper plate grant in favour of any Hindu institution is so far available, there is ample evidence to show that Valabhi, the capital of a Hindu Kingdom, was also an important seat of Hindu learning. A number of copper plates giving grants of villages, lands, etc.; to learned Brahmins goes to show the great esteem in which the pandits well-versed in the *shastras* were held by the Maitraka rulers. Its great reputation as the seat of Hindu

1. THOMAS WATTERS, *On Yuan Chwang's Traveles in India*, p. 246
2. BEAL S., *The life of Hiuen Tsiang*, London, pp. 266-268, 1914

learning attracted a Brahmin youth from Antarvedi on the banks of Ganges to Valabhi for higher studies even though Banaras and Taxila were close to his home.[1] Mayursarman, the founder of the Kadamba dynasty, went all the way to Valabhi and brought with him some of the learned Brahmins presumably to assist him at a sacrifice.[2] Under the Hindu system of education, primary education was probably in the hands of the village school-master who taught in the *pathshala*, whereas higher studies were imparted at the *gurukulas*.

Jain System

Valabhi is the traditional place of Jainism where Shwetambar canon was collected and published. Since the beginning of the Maitraka rule it had been the seat of great scriptual activity and become a rendezvous of the Jain savants. One of them, Dhanesvarasuri, who describes himself as the tutor of prince Siladitya wrote the famous *Shatrunjaya-Mahatmya* and defeated the Buddhists by resorting to *Syad-veds*.[3] It was here again where Jitayasas and Yaksa the brothers of the famous Malla lived and wrote *Visranta Visyadharavara* and *Nimittastangabodhini*. Malla himself wrote his famous treatise on the Jain philosophy called the *Nyayachackra*. The two agencies of the Jain educational system were the Art schools and the monasteries. The Art schools were concerned with primary and secondary education, where subjects like three R's, fine arts, military training, academic and scientific studies were taught. This course of training extending over a period of 7 years was adapted to the physical, mental and emotional needs of the scholars from boyhood to early adolescence. Thereafter students joined the monasteries which were prototype of the Buddhist *viharas* where the learned *acharyas* imparted training in higher studies.[4] The method of studies, pursued in the Jain monasteries was both comprehensive and rational and it extended over a wide range of subjects like the Vedas, Vedangas, History, Philosophy, Higher Mathematics, Astronomy, Astrology, Medicine, Mineralogy, Lexicography, Politics, Grammar, etc., together with the Brahmanical and Buddhist works. Jains, however, were the first to make use of vernacular language as the medium of instruction in place of Sanskrit and Prakrit.

Beginning of State Activity in the Field of Education (1852-1950)

The foundation of the modern educational system in Bhavnagar State dates back to the year 1852 when the first vernacular school was established. Four years later, Lord Elphinstone opened the first anglo-vernacular school at Bhavnagar in 1856. To provide facilities for higher education, the State had also started the Samaldas College in 1885, where Mahatma Gandhiji studied for some time before proceeding to England. In eductional matters Bhavnagar State which had high cultural traditions occupied a foremost position amongst

1. *Somadeva, Katha Saritsagara, Taranga*, 32
2. Saletore B. A., *An Ancient Karnataka*, 1, pp. 324-325, note 1
3. *Shatrunjaya-Mahatmya*, p. 769
4. Das Gupta D. G., *Jaina System of Education*, Calcutta, p. 2, 1944

Kathiawar States. A system of giving grant-in-aid was initiated in 1884. Since then education has progressed very well. This will be evident from the statement given below which indicates a rapid increase in the number of institutions and pupils in the Bhavnagar State between 1921 and 1944-45.

Year		No. of institutions	No. of pupils
1921	..	216	19,792
1931	..	315	25,134
1944-45	..	538	43,175

From the statement it is observed that while the total number of institutions increased from 216 to 315 in 1931 and to 538 in 1944-45, the number of pupils had risen from 19,792 in 1921 to 25,134 in 1931 and to 43,175 in 1944-45. The extent of interest shown by the Bhavnagar State in education will be evident from the fact that by 1943-44 the State maintained 1 college, 6 high schools (including one high school for girls), 5 middle schools, 11 English classes (at Umrala, Lilia, Trapaj, Dungar, Koliak, Bhumbhli, Chogath, Dhola junction, Sihor, Mahuva and a *kanyashala* at Kundla); 332 primary schools (including 37 girls schools, 4 Sanskrit *pathshalas*, one Ayurvedic *pathshala*, 2 Urdu schools and 10 schools for depressed classes). There were also 23 grant-in-aid schools which included 1 high school, 4 middle schools, 1 *mahila vidyalaya* 13 primary schools for boys and 4 primary schools for girls. The State also gave substantial grants unconditionally to Gaurishanker Ved Pathshala and Ambla Agriculture Bias School.

Educational Progress after Integration (1951-1961)

The progress of education was rapid in the district of Bhavnagar after the formation of the State of Saurashtra, as seen from the statement given below.

Year		No. of institutions	No. of pupils
1950-51	..	1,197	113,313
1960-61	..	2,115	214,723

From the statement given above it is observed that while the number of institutions increased from 1,197 in 1950-51 to 2,115 in 1960-61 the number of pupils increased from 113,313 in 1950-51 to 214,723 in 1960-61.

Literacy in former Bhavnagar State before 1951

Before referring to the growth of literacy in the district it would be interesting to have a brief idea about the extent of literacy in the former Bhavnagar State. The Census of 1931 revealed that in the general population of the age of 5 and over, 162 in every thousand were literate. The corresponding male and female proportions were 254 and 64 respectively. According to the Census of 1941, 198 persons per mille aged 5 and over were literate. The corresponding proportions for males and females were 294 and 94.

Growth of Literacy since 1951

The first Census conducted in 1951 after the formation of Saurashtra State revealed that the percentage of literacy in respect of those aged 5 and over in Bhavnagar district was 17·61, males 24·97 per cent and females 9·93 per cent. According to the Census of 1961 the percentage of literacy rose to 27·43, males 38·33 and females 15·80 per cent.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Literacy

Highest percentage of literacy among males in 1951 Census was found in Bhavnagar taluka (38·76 per cent) and the lowest in Rajula mahal (17·69 per cent). Among females too, literacy percentage was highest in Bhavnagar taluka (20·81 per cent) and lowest in Rajula mahal (4·86 per cent). The Census of 1961, however, tells a different story. Statement XV·1 furnishes sex-wise details of rural/urban literacy for each taluka/mahal of the district.

STATEMENT XV·1

Rural/Urban Literacy by Sex, 1961

		Literate and Educated					
Taluka/ Mahal	Rural/ Urban	Literates number	Percentage of total population	Literate males	Percentage of total male population	Literate females	Percentage of total female population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bhavnagar	R	11,174	20.53	8,925	31·67	2,249	8·57
	U	86,821	49.20	55,338	60·09	31,483	37·31
Gogha	R	9,193	20.32	6,740	28·64	2,453	11·30
	U	1,794	32.78	1,279	51·10	515	17·34
Vallabhipur	R	8,288	24.32	6,411	36·28	1,877	11·44
	U	2,635	36.14	1,827	50·91	808	24·34
Botad	R	8,361	16.03	6,774	28·23	1,587	7·09
	U	12,514	39.96	8,287	51·12	4,227	28·01
Gadhada	R	12,856	20.49	9,976	30·86	2,880	9·47
	U	3,734	40.93	2,474	52·49	1,260	28·57
Palitana	R	10,013	15.34	8,295	24·61	1,718	5·44
	U	10,690	43.49	7,056	55·19	3,634	30·90
Sihor	R	13,289	22.62	10,447	34·04	2,842	10·13
	U	7,116	46.62	4,479	57·64	2,637	35·19
Umrala	R	8,990	22·50	6,927	33·43	2,063	10·73
	U	1,759	41·34	1,148	52·86	611	29·32
Gariadhar	R	10,174	21·11	8,355	33·59	1,819	7·90
	U	2,712	33·06	1,870	44·66	842	20·97
Kundla	R	20,533	20·81	16,343	32·34	4,190	8·70
	U	11,863	38·20	7,755	49·37	4,108	27·36
Mahuva	R	19,181	16·43	16,345	27·55	2,836	4·94
	U	13,555	41·41	9,010	52·87	4,545	28·97
Talaja	R	16,500	17·10	13,302	26·89	3,198	6·80
	U	3,297	46·65	2,094	57·96	1,203	34·93

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 19

In rural areas, literacy is highest (24·32 per cent) in Vallabhipur mahal and lowest in Palitana taluka (15·34 per cent). Highest male (36.28 per cent) as well as female (11·44 per cent) literacy is also reported from the rural areas of Vallabhipur mahal. But these percentages are lowest for males in Palitana taluka (24·61 per cent) and for females in Mahuva taluka (4·94 per cent). Among urban areas, percentage of literacy is highest in Bhavnagar taluka (49·20 per cent) which also claims highest percentage of literacy for both the sexes males (60·09 per cent) and females (37·31 per cent). Among towns, while Gogha has lowest percentage of total literates (32·78 per cent) as well as of female literates (17·34 per cent), Gariadhar with 44·66 per cent of male literates is the lowest.

The percentage of literacy to total population by age and sex is given for total/rural/urban in Statement XV·2.

STATEMENT XV·2

Literacy by Age-groups, 1961

Age groups	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All ages	27·43	38·33	15·80	19·37	30·08	7·99	44·97	56·17	32·92
5–14	32·27	41·39	21·87	23·76	34·28	11·81	50·57	56·13	43·67
15–34	37·77	52·59	21·88	26·94	41·77	11·14	59·95	74·55	44·09
35–59	20·61	44·24	14·20	20·33	33·38	6·61	49·15	67·03	30·23
60+	19·68	35·29	6·01	13·16	25·27	2·95	35·73	61·40	16·23
Age not stated	17·24	27·01	4·82	16·43	28·42	4·38	29·17	33·83	16·67

Source :
District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar, p. 18

Literates among children in the age-group 5-14 constitute 32·27 per cent of whom males account for 41·39 per cent and females 21·87 per cent. Highest literacy among persons and males is found to be in age-group 15-34 in total / rural / urban areas. Highest percentage of literacy among females is to be found in the age-group 5-14 in rural areas of the district, but in the total and urban areas percentage of female literacy is slightly higher in the next age-group 15-34.

As observed in the previous paragraphs, percentage of literacy in the district is 27·43. This in other words signifies that 72 per cent of the population in the district is illiterate, distributed between the urban and rural areas in the proportion of 17·35 and 55·27 per cent respectively.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

True index of educational progress can be had from the figures of different educational levels compiled by the 1961 Census and reproduced below.

STATEMENT XV·3

Educational Levels in Urban and Rural Areas, 1961

Sl. No.	Educational levels	Urban Persons	Urban Males	Urban Females	Rural Persons	Rural Males	Rural Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Total ..	**352,429**	**182,701**	**169,728**	**767,006**	**395,028**	**371,978**
1	Illiterate	193,039	80,084	113,855	618,454	276,188	342,266
2	Literate (without educational level)	36,171	22,964	13,207	53,048	42,575	10,473
3	Primary or Junior Basic ..	109,428	68,835	40,593	94,045	74,907	19,138
4	Matriculation or Higher Secondary	10,327	8,599	1,728	1,459	1,358	101
5	Technical diploma not equal to degree	139	135	4	..	.	..
6	Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	51	25	26	..	..	..
7	University degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree . ..	1,636	1,377	259	..		.
8	Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree . ..	738	682	56	..	..	..
	(i) Engineering	127	127	..	..	..	.
	(ii) Medicine . ..	197	183	14	..	..	..
	(iii) Agriculture	15	11	4			.
	(iv) Veterinary and Dairying ..	3	3	.	.		.
	(v) Technology .	14	14	..	..	..	..
	(vi) Teaching ..	64	46	18	..	..	..
	(vii) Others .	318	298	20	..	..	

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar, pp. 29-30

From this table it is observed that the important characteristic which distinguishes rural areas from the urban is a very low standard of literacy in the countryside. In the urban areas 55 per cent of the urban population is found to be illiterate, while in rural areas the percentage is as high as 80. Another significant conclusion which can be drawn from the table is that in the district both in urban and rural areas among the literates those without educational level are comparatively less than those who have passed primary or junior basic stage. No single reason can be assigned for this result. Greater facilities for education available in these days in the district and consequent increase in the proportions of children in school-going ages would naturally tend to bring about a higher proportion of literates in the educational level, primary or junior basic.

The number of persons who have studied up to university degree or post-graduate degree other than technical degree though forming an insignificant proportion to the total population, shows that the district has made some headway in this field. A striking feature observable in this respect is that

females who shunned education at all stages have now started taking benefits of higher university education. Further examination of the statement reveals that the number of persons who have obtained technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree is nearly 50 per cent of those who possess university or post-graduate degree in non-technical branches. Greater demand for technical education in recent times is evident from those figures. Among the technical courses, 'Engineering' and 'Medicine' are generally preferred. Female students are attracted to medicine, but not to engineering which does not claim a single woman in this branch of technical instruction. But 'Teaching' is one of the important courses opted for study by women.

Spread of Education among Women

In respect of female education Bhavnagar had been a pioneer State in Kathiawar. Majiraj Girls' School was the first of its kind that was opened in this region. The institution had to put up a hard and patient struggle to fight the prejudice against female education prevailing in those days. In 1925 another institution called Mahila Vidyalaya was started by a band of enthusiastic workers devoted to the cause of education of women headed by the late Shri Balwantrai Mehta, Chief Minister of Gujarat State, under the auspices of "Bhavnagar Stree Kelvani Mandal". The Bhavnagar State had sanctioned a grant of half the total expenditure to this institution. Since then Bhavnagar Stree Kelvani Mandal has started a number of institutions, viz., Bhavnagar Kumari Mandir in 1923, Danibhai Kanya Chhatralaya in 1945-46, and a college for women affiliated to Shrimati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey University in the year 1951.

Children's Education

Bhavnagar district has made a distinct mark in respect of children's education. By running the Dakshinamurti Bal Bhawan, late Shri Gijubhai became 'mother' to many children. The Dakshinamurti Bal Bhawan, established in 1920, was run on Montessori lines and great stress was laid upon the training of different senses of the child. Shri Gijubhai and Smt. Tarabai Modak were the soul of the institution. Aptly referred to as Gandhiji of children, Shri Gijubhai studied child education scientifically and created children's literature which is uncomparable so far. Writing about him, Maria Montessori says, "I never knew him, I wish, I had, for he was a great lover of child. No obstacles stopped him in his endeavour to bring them freedom and happiness".[1] He was responsible for making country's educationists think on children's education. Shri Nanabhai Bhatt founder of the Dakshinamurti institution at Bhavnagar also helped Shri Gijubhai in giving shape to children's education.

Another prominent personality in the field of education is that of Harbhai Trivedi. At the request of leading citizens of Bhavnagar Shri Harbhai

1. Pathak Ramnarayan, N., *Balshikshan na Praneta*, p. 249, 1957

started a Gharshala on 1st March, 1939. Along with other institutions such as Bal Adhyapan Mandir, Basic Teachers' Training College, High School and Sarvajanik Hostel, a Balmandir is also run on Montessori lines. Under his able guidance, research work of considerable magnitude is done in connection with children's and secondary education.

Primary Education

Consistent with the liberal policy of Bhavnagar State, primary education for boys as well as girls had been made free since 1931. The Bhavnagar State maintained 342 primary schools, over and above 132 primary schools maintained from the Village Improvement Fund. Total number of primary schools prior to the integration of States in this district was 666 and the number of pupils 45,000.[1]

Bhavnagar State had made notable contribution in the field of primary education by encouraging institutions like 'Dakshinamurti' started by Shri Nanabhai Bhatt, a prominent and well-known educationist of Gujarat. This institution had done remarkable work in the sphere of primary and secondary education. The institution ran a Balmandir (Montessori School), a Vinaya Mandir (High School), an Adhyapan Mandir (Training School for Teachers), a Prakashan Mandir (Publication Bureau) and a students' hostel. The institution was closed in 1942 but its activities were continued by Shri Bhatt by establishing 'Gram Dakshinamurti' at Ambla.

The question of expanding primary education engaged the attention of Government soon after the formation of the State of Saurashtra. A large number of schools were rapidly opened in areas which had hitherto been neglected. By 1951 the number of primary schools in the district was 574 and that of pupils 50,401. Primary education registered a remarkable growth between 1951-61, when it added 353 schools and 49,386 pupils. In 1953-54 government launched an intensive drive to provide schools to as many school less villages as possible, especially to open an independent school in every village with a population of 500 and over. As a result of this drive, number of villages without schools in the district in 1957-58 was 116 out of a total of 1,033. These were very small villages having a population below 400. During 1960-61 the number of primary schools rose to 1,025. Of these, 860 schools were in rural areas, and covered 817 villages of the district as then constituted. Villages having no school numbered 64. Thus 92·74 per cent of the total villages of the district were provided with facilities of primary education by the end of 1960-61 giving one primary school for every 10·64 sq. km.

Free and Compulsory Primary Education

This district forms part of Saurashtra region where the Saurashtra Primary Education Act, 1956 was made applicable. This Act provided for the introduction of compulsion in the Saurashtra region, including areas

[1] Government of Bombay, *Kalyan Rajaya na Panthe, Gohilwad Jilla*, p. 89, 1957

within the jurisdiction of municipalities and gram panchayats. But free and compulsory education to children aged 6-11 was in fact introduced in the Third Five Year Plan. Compulsory primary education was introduced in the district in the age-group 7-8 during the year 1961-62 and in the age-group 8-9 during the year 1962-63.

The extent of headway made in primary education in the district will be evident from the following statement which gives break-up for the number of recognised institutions, pupils and teachers in the sphere of primary education for the years 1951-52, 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1962-63.

Year	Institutions	Pupils	Teachers
1951-52	574	50,401	1,378
1958-59	1,140	107,157	3,202
1959-60	1,000	97,064	2,756
1962-63	1,048	121,551	3,632

The foregoing statement shows uniform progress in the expansion of number of insitutions, pupils and teachers. The data for the years 1958-59 and 1959-60 are not strictly comparable, as figures furnished do not take into account the territorial changes that have taken place since 1959. From the data it seems that primary education has suffered a decline. But it is not so in fact. The correct answer is to be sought in the figures relating to Amreli district where the rise is seen to be phenomenal owing to inclusion in this district of a large number of villages from Bhavnagar district.

Training Facilities for Teachers

In view of the expansion of primary education, it was found necessary to expand training facilities for teachers to improve the quality of tuition in primary and basic schools. There were two private and one government training colleges in the district in 1951. In 1956 this number rose to 4 and in 1961 it was 5. One female training college was started at Gadhada in 1960.

School Buildings

Allied to the problem of trained teachers was the provision of buildings to house the increasing number of pupils in village schools. Programme of construction of primary school buildings initiated during the last two years of the First Plan and continued in the Second and Third Five Year Plans has shown remarkable results in the district. In 1957 about 168 villages had their own school buildings and 64 rooms were added to the existing premises. By 1960-61 the total number of new buildings constructed was 98.

Basic Schools

The ideology of basic education has influenced the educational activities of the district. The period from 1955 onwards has been a period of relatively rapid expansion and extension of basic education. The Assessment Committee of the Government of India on Basic Education recommended what is known as "orientation of Primary Schools towards the Basic Pattern".

Under this programme most of the non-basic schools have been oriented towards basic pattern by introducing community activities and simple crafts like kitchen gardening, spinning, clay work, paper work, etc. This district had in 1963-64, 480 junior basic schools.

Lokshalas

The lokshalas in the district have contributed substantially towards furthering the cause of basic education. Both junior and senior lokshalas constitute a special feature in the educational set-up of the district. A junior lokshala is conceived as a residential senior basic school with agriculture as main craft, while a senior lokshala is a post-basic residential school with agriculture and dairy as main crafts. The senior lokshala is expected to provide secondary education adapted to the needs of the village environment. There are in all 5 lokshalas in the district, viz.:

1 Gram Dakshinamurti, Manar
2 Gram Dakshinamurti Lokshala, Ambla
3 Vatsalya Dham Lokshala, Malpara
4 Khadsali Lokshala, Khadsali
5 Sarvajanik Kumar Lokshala, Vartej

The idea of opening up a basic school originated with Shri Nanabhai Bhatt, who influenced by the Gandhian thought settled in the village of Ambla after nearly 30 years of service in the field of education. Bhavnagar Darbar had also ably supported Shri Nanabhai in opening up a lokshala at Ambla where primary education was sought to be imparted through village craft. In order that his idea may have a fair trial, the Darbar granted several facilities by way of land, buildings, and an annual grant of Rs. 1,100.

Secondary Education

The beginning of the secondary education in the district can be traced to the year 1856 when the Bhavnagar Anglo-Vernacular School was established. During the State regime, schools imparting secondary education were established at Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Kundla, and Botad. Notable among these is the Alfred High School at Bhavnagar which has an uninterrupted record of service in the sphere of education. The total number of middle schools and high schools maintained by the Bhavnagar State was 19 (6 high schools and 13 middle schools). The number of secondary and middle schools increased from 15 in 1950-51 to 21 in 1955-56 and to 38 in the year 1958-59. In the year 1961-62 the number was 64, when Bhavnagar taluka alone had 19 such schools, followed by Kundla taluka which had 11. The number of pupils studying in the secondary schools was 11,515 in 1950-51, 16,678 in 1958-59, and 17,213 in 1961-62.

Colleges in Bhavnagar District

As in many other matters, Bhavnagar has been a pioneer of progress also in higher education. For, to Bhavnagar State belongs the credit of having founded the first arts college in the province of Kathiawar in the year 1884-1885.

The college was established by His Highness Sir Takhtasinhji in memory of his Diwan the late Mr. Samaldas Parmanand. In addition to Samaldas College there are today five other colleges imparting higher education in various subjects such as Science, Commerce, Law, and Ayurvedic system of medicine. The number of pupils studying in colleges was 653 in 1950-51, 1,133 in 1955-56, 1,617 in 1960-61 and rose to 4,687 in 1963-64. A brief description of these institutions is given below.

Samaldas College, Bhavnagar—The first two classes of Samaldas College began to work in the year 1885. From 1885 to 1895 the institution met with varying success. From the year 1896 onwards the college has shown steady progress. The number of students went on increasing year after year. This would be evident from the fact that from 215 in 1915-16, the total number of students attending college in 1964-65 has risen to 1,157. The social and literary activities of the college continue unabated. Students evince equal interest in cricket, tennis, hockey, and gymnastics and sports.

The college imparts instructions in arts subjects leading to B.A. degree besides post-graduate degree(M.A.) in Sanskrit,Gujarati,History (A and C groups) and Mathematics. The teaching staff consisted of 22 members in 1964-65.

Sir P. P. Institute of Science, Bhavnagar—Sir P. P. Institute of Science is the counterpart of the Samaldas College functioning independently since 1963, and imparting instructions in the courses leading to B.Sc. degree in Chemistry, Physics, Botany and Mathematics (principal and subsidiary) and Zoology subsidiary. It also imparts instructions in post-graduate subjects like Inorganic Chemistry and Mathematics (principal). The teaching strength of the college was of 26 members in 1964-65. The college is at present housed in an imposing two storeyed structure near the Central Salt Research Institute.

M. J. College of Commerce, Bhavnagar—This college was established in 1949. It is the only college in Saurashtra conducting post-graduate courses in commerce. It is named after Shri Mangaldas Jesingbhai whose son Shri Shantilal Mangaldas had donated a sum of Rs. two lakhs for the college. It prepares students for courses leading up to B. Com. and M. Com. degrees. In 1965 the total strength of students was 786 and that of the teaching staff 33 members. The college is housed in its own building constructed by the government at cost of about Rs. 3½ lakhs. The college has a library with a total collection of 7,000 books.

Smt. N. C. Gandhi Mahila College, Bhavnagar—Established in the year 1951 the college imparts education to women students for B.A. degree of the S.N.D.T. Women's University of Bombay. The college is run by Stree Kelvani Mandal of Bhavnagar. It had 313 students and a teaching staff of 22 members in 1964-65.

Sheth H. J. Law College, Bhavnagar—Sheth Hargovinddas Jivandas Law College was established in the year 1962. Sheth Shri Dharmadas Hargovinddas and Shri Gordhandas Dharmadas and the Mahalakshmi Mills jointly

donated Rs. 100,000 and the Bhavnagar Borough Municipality donated Rs. 50,000 to start this college. The college at present conducts classes for First and Second LL.B. courses. Total number of students attending the college in the year 1964-65 was 180.

Shri J. P. Ayurveda College, Bhavnagar—The college was started in 1928 in Bhavnagar. Sheth Jivandas Prabhudas of Sathra donated Rs. 50,000 to start Shri J. P. Ayurveda Pathshala. After a few years allopathic courses were also introduced and the institution was known as Shri J. P. Ayurvedic Pathshala and Medical School. On account of financial difficulties the institution remained closed for a few years. However, in the year 1954 it was restarted as a grant-in-aid institution. Government of Saurashtra gave Rs. 10,000 as grant which the Government of Bombay continued on integration. Government of Gujarat also continued the grant up to 18th, November, 1963 when it ultimately decided to take over the charge of the institution. It aims at teaching all the subjects in Ayurveda and prepare qualified *vaidyas*. It conducts courses for diploma and degree. The degree courses of B.S.A.M. (Bachelor of Shuddha Ayurvedic Medicines) extend over 5½ years. The total number of students attending the college was 150 in the year 1964-65. An Ayurvedic hospital is also attached to the college.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The following institutes in Bhavnagar district provide training in various technical courses.

1 Sir Bhavsinhji Polytechnic Institute, Bhavnagar
2 Industrial Training Institute under Sir Bhavsinhji Polytechnic Institute, Bhavnagar
3 Alfred High School, Bhavnagar and
4 J. P. Parekh High School, Mahuva

Sir Bhavsinhji Polytechnic Institute—The institute is named after Sir Bhavsinhji the late ruler of the former Bhavnagar State. A trust of Rs. 5 lakhs was created by his son Shri Krishnakumarsinhji, when he ascended the throne after Sir Bhavsinhji for establishing the institute. The original sum with interest grew to more than Rs. 12 lakhs in 1948 and the institute was started in 1949 by the Saurashtra Government. In Sir Bhavsinhji Polytechnic Institute, diploma courses, certificate courses and trade courses are conducted in subjects like, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, automobile engineering, and textile manufacturing. Certificates are awarded to successful candidates in respect of diploma and certificate courses by the Council of Technical Education after holding an examination on completion of studies. The total number of students attending the college was 1,040 and the teaching staff consisted of 69 members in 1965.

The remaining three institutes, namely, Industrial Training Institute, Alfred High School, Bhavnagar, and J. P. Parekh High School, Mahuva, provide training facilities in the following courses : (1) Draughtsman (Mechanical), (2) Draughtsman (Civil), (3) Electrician, (4) Fitter,

(5) Radio Mechanic, (6) Turner, (7) Electroplater, (8) Motor Mechanist and (9) Welder. Both these high schools are multi-purpose institutions having a technical bias. Admission is given from eighth standard and students are taught up to eleventh standard, i.e., S.S.C. (Tech.).

Courses in Commerce—Courses in commerce have gained popularity as a multi-purpose course in secondary schools. It extends over four years, Std. VIII to Std. XI. Very few schools, however, can either afford to introduce these special courses or, where instituted, the number of students opting for the course does not always justify either the heavy initial expenditure for equipment or the full-time services of trained instructors. The government, therefore, have established centres for imparting education in commerce either in district towns or other large towns having a fairly large number of secondary schools. Bhavnagar district has one such centre located at Bhavnagar in Bhavnagar Middle School.

Co-operative Training School—The school was established in 1955 and is at present housed in the Old Darbargadh buildings. The school imparts instructions to staff members of the office of the District Registrars of various districts. The staff of other institutions such as co-operative societies and marketing committees also receive training in this school. It trains candidates for the diploma course entitled "Lower Diploma in Co-operation."

Block Level Co-operative Officers' Training Centre, Bhavnagar—This Block Level Co-operative Officers' Training Centre is run by the Reserve Bank of India in Bhavnagar. The centre trains candidates in elements of co-operation. The trainees are posted in blocks after completing 11 months training at the centre.

The Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar—The Central Salt Research Institute was inaugurated by the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, on 10th April, 1954. Till 1961, the functions of the Institute included essentially researches on preparation of salt of improved quality and of different grades and recovery of chemicals from sea-water and inland saline lakes. The Institute was renamed Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute in 1961, and the new activities of marine and sea-water agriculture were added. In 1963, work on another research project on utilisation of sea-water, namely, conversion of sea-water into fresh water, was undertaken. Since 1964 work on recovery of chemicals directly from sea-water and desalination of brackish water using ion-exchange techniques was started.

Training Courses in Quality Control in Salt Manufacture— Training courses in quality control in salt manufacture are being organised at the Institute every year for about two weeks, since 1964. A total number of 24 trainees have undergone training till 1966.

Recognition for Ph. D. Work—The Institute is recognised as a centre for carrying out research for the degree of Ph. D., by the Universities of (1) Andhra, (2) Bombay, (3) Banaras, (4) Gujarat, (5) Karnatak, (6) Baroda, (7) Punjab, (8) Rajasthan, (9) Shivaji and (10) Sardar Patel Vidyapeeth.

Colloquium—Colloquia were organised in the Institute during the period. A condensed course in chemical engineering and foreign language courses (German and French) and refresher course for the helpers were organised for the benefit of the institute staff by the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute unit of the Association of Scientific Workers of India.

EDUCATION SOCIETIES

Bhavnagar Kelavani Mandal, Bhavnagar—Bhavnagar Kelavani Mandal-one of the most important institutions in Bhavnagar—was established in 1959 with a view to organize and promote educational activities in the district. It initiated its first activity by starting Vidya Mandir High School in 1959 with the initial strength of 250 students which increased to 700 in 1964. In 1962 it started the Hargovinddas Jivandas Law College-the first Law College in Bhavnagar-with the financial assistance offered by Shri Dharmadas Hargovinddas and Shri Gordhandas Hargovinddas. The State Government has also entrusted to this Mandal the administration of Alfred High School-the biggest and oldest high school—in Bhavnagar. The school has a strength of over 1,800 students and 60 teachers and owns a modern laboratory, a rich library and a big playground. A teachers' training college has also been started since 1964. Thus, during a short period of five years of its existence the Mandal has rendered very useful service to the people of the district. Its future plan includes the opening of a *vyayam* college, a girls' high school, one arts college and one medical college in Bhavnagar. The Mandal has as its members well-known educationists, industrialists and social workers of the district.

Bhogilal Maganlal Shah Education Society, Bhavnagar—The society was established in 1952 with the object of promoting education and learning. It runs (a) Shri Bhogilal Maganlal Commerce High School, (b) Shrimati Divaliben Primary School and (c) Shrimati Chanchalben Saraswati Mandir which is a Montessori type of school.

Gharshala, Bhavnagar—*Gharshala* or Home School Society came into existence in 1939 with the efforts of some well-known social workers of Bhavnagar. Established with the object of promoting and propagating the ideals of new education, the society has been carrying on praiseworthy activities in the field of education for the last over 25 years under the able guidance of its founder-president Shri Harbhai Trivedi, a prominent educationist of Gujarat. It conducts the following institutions.

1 Balmandir
2 Bal Adhyapan Mandir
3 Basic Training Centre for children
4 Training School for teachers
5 Gharshala Vinay Mandir (High School)
6 Sarvajanik Chhatralaya
7 Mangal Pustakalaya (Library)
8 Prakashan Mandir (Publishing House)
9 Training Centre for women
10 Art Centre

The society started its activities by establishing in 1939 a Balmandir which imparts training on Montessori basis to children under six. The experience of conducting the Balmandir for the first two years laid bare the necessity of having trained teachers who could impart proper training to children. The society, therefore, started in 1942 a Bal Adhyapan Mandir which conducts a two-year intensive training course for primary teachers. Many young men who have received training here have proved to be very successful teachers. The number of trainees was 125 in 1965. The Basic Training Centre run by the society imparts training to children between the age of 6 and 13 in such technical subjects as carpentry, sewing, knitting, bookbinding, etc. In 1950, the society ventured to start a training school for teachers with the financial assistance of government. This experiment, though expensive, has proved very successful. In 1965. over 250 men and women were receiving training under this scheme. The society also runs a high school named Gharshala Vinay Mandir which is now one of the most well-known and well-managed high schools in the district. The Sarvajanik Chhatralaya attached to it provides lodging and boarding facilities to about hundred students without any distinction of caste, creed or religion. The inmates are trained to take up responsibilities of running different sections of the hostel. The library (Mangal Pustakalaya) started by a generous donation of Rs. 10,000 from Shri Shantilal Mangaldas has a rich collection of books numbering over 18,000 on various subjects in different languages. It subscribes to over one hundred periodicals. The publishing section named Shri Kamani Trust Prakashan brings out useful literature both for children and their parents. The *Gharshala*, a monthly publication of the society, published since 1940 contains valuable articles of interest to students and teachers. The Art Centre of the society conducts morning and evening classes and has produced good artists who have gained interstate and international reputation. The Training Centre for women conducts courses in sewing, cooking and home science. The Home School Society through these institutions has done pioneer work and rendered very useful service in the field of education. The total number of students in these institutions was about 1,400 in 1965.

Gram Dakshinamurti, Ambla-Manar—After the famous institution Dakshinamurti started by late Shri Nanabhai Bhatt at Bhavnagar was wound up, he started the Gram Dakshinamurti in 1938. This institution started its activities by establishing a lokshala at Ambla in 1938. The lokshala accommodating about a hundred students is a basic-*cum*-post basic residential school aiming at becoming a community school with the guiding principles of truth, service and character-building. It has its own library, a laboratory and a *gaushala.* The institution also owns a big farm and a well-developed garden. It publishes a monthly magazine *Kodiyun* and runs a primary school.

Another lokshala was started at Manar in 1956. Situated on sea-coast it has a well developed garden of coconut, *chikoo* and mango trees with a

gaushala attached to it. The institution imparts training to about 100 students every year.

Lokshala, Khadsali—This lokshala was established in 1959 for imparting general education to students of nearby villages. It is managed by Shri Kundla Taluka Gram Seva Mandal and has a building and a large playground of its own. Students are taught farming and spinning and given school education up to 10th standard.

Lok Bharati, Sanosara—Lok Bharati, situated in the ideal surroundings of village Sanosara about 43 km. away from Bhavnagar, is a well-known rural residential institution aiming at bringing higher education to villages by providing to villagers a systematic programme of education in tune with rural requirements. The institution owes its origin to Gram Dakshinamurti a basic-*cum*-post-basic institution at village Ambla (near Sanosara) founded by Shri Nanabhai Bhatt, the founder president of Lok Bharati. Inspired by the success of the Dakshinamurti Lokshala, Shri Bhatt, at the instance of the Saurashtra Rachnatmak Samiti, established Lok Bharati which was inagurated on May 28, 1953. Since then it has been rendering useful service to the cause of rural education through its threefold programme of teaching, extension and research.

In the field of teaching it conducts the following educational courses : (1) Lok Seva Maha Vidyalaya which offers a three and a half year degree course in rural education giving specialised training in agriculture, animal husbandry and rural reconstruction; (2) a two year certificate course in agriculture under the aegis of the National Council for Rural Higher Education, Government of India; (3) a training course of two years for basic teachers which is conducted through the Adhyapan Mandir of Lok Bharati and (4) a Panchayati Raj Training Centre which imparts training to village leaders.

In the extension programme, the institution conducts adult education classes, farmers' fairs and camps in nearby villages and organises crop competitions wherein prizes are distributed to the winning farmers. It also conducts a co-operative union of milk producers of a group of nearby villages, a co-operative society of oil crushers, a village workshop manufacturing bricks and tiles, and a number of spinning and weaving centres. The institution has started from 1963 a Sarvodaya Kendra which organises demonstrations of experiments for the use of manures, fertilisers and improved seeds and distributes fertilisers to farmers. It also helps the farmers by organising cattle shows and study tours.

Research experiments are carried on by the institution in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and dairying. Major projects undertaken are: (a) survey of fragmentation and subdivision of holdings in village Sanosara, (b) socio-economic survey of students' community of Lok Bharati and (c) study projects for the improvement of class teaching.

The institution is managed by a board of trustees consisting of eminent educationists and local leaders.

Mahuva Kelavani Sahayak Samaj, Mahuva—The Samaj was established in 1941 to give financial assistance and scholarships to the needy and deserving students and extend all possible aid in general to the inhabitants of the area surrounding Mahuva. The Samaj runs two high schools, a middle school, a technical school, a Kanya Vidyalaya, a Kumar Mandir and a Balmandir. During the period of twenty-five years of its existence, the Samaj has achieved considerable progress in the field of education. It now runs seven fully equipped educational institutions and owns buildings worth Rs. 4 lakhs.

Nutan Kelavani Mandal, Savarkundla—The Mandal was established in 1952 with a view to provide educational facilities to the students by running various educational institutions. It is managed by an executive committee consisting of 7 members elected every three years. It runs five institutions viz., K. K. High School, Girls High School, Nutan Vidyalaya, Jivan Vidyalaya and Meghji Pethraj Sarvajanik Chhatralaya. The schools provide education to more than one thousand students, while the Chhatralaya accommodates about 40 students. Since its establishment 251 students have taken benefit of this Chhatralaya.

Palitana Education Society, Palitana—The society was established in 1959 to provide facilities for study from pre-primary stage to the secondary and high school stage including studies in commercial and technical subjects. It conducts the Palitana Balmandir,Palitana High School and a Kanya Vidyalaya.

Sarvajanik Bal Vihar, Bhavnagar—Sarvajanik Bal Vihar, established in 1947, runs the following institutions.

(i) Bal Kridangan : Since 1951 training classes for children are conducted in open surroundings where they are given lessons in physical exercise. About 150 students attend the *kridangan* everyday.

(ii) Balmandir : Started in 1961, it imparts basic education to children of labour class and Backward Classes.

(iii) Mahila Shivan Class : Conducts sewing class for women; started in 1952.

Sarvajanik Kumar Lokshala, Vartej—The lokshala has been functioning since 2nd October, 1953. It admits students of all castes and communities without any discrimination. Basic education is imparted to students who are trained in crafts like spinning, weaving, smithy and carpentry.

ORIENTAL SCHOOLS

During the time of Bhavnagar State, oriental schools engaged in imparting instruction in Sanskrit were also encouraged. Fixed sums were given to these institutions as grant-in-aid. There were 4 Sanskrit *pathshalas* in the past. This number has risen to 6 in 1965.

EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND

Krishnakumarsinhji School and Home for the Blind—Krishnakumarsinhji School and Home for the Blind opened at Bhavnagar in 1932 is doing very

useful work for the disabled class of persons. Bhavnagar State used to contribute half of its annual expenses. This policy was continued by the former Governments of Saurashtra and Bombay. The Government of Gujarat also continues to render financial assistance. The institution looks after the education of the blind, takes care of them and trains them in some handicrafts or arts which will enable them to earn their livelihood after they leave the institution. In 1964 there were 42 blind inmates receiving training in this institution.

Shri Khimchand Laxmichand School for Deaf and Dumb, Bhavnagar—Efforts made by the social workers of Bhavnagar city since 1954 to start a school for the deaf and dumb materialised in 1960 thanks to Shri Ramaniklal Manordas Shah who volunteered to provide temporary accommodation for starting the school. The building where the school sits was later donated by Shrimati Hiralaxmi Shah in the sacred memory of her father-in-law, Shri Khimchand Laxmichand. The school admits children of all sections irrespective of caste and creed. Specially trained teachers are engaged to train the students in tailoring, knitting, photography, smithy, carpentry, cane-works, paper toys and flowers, handicrafts and other allied subjects. The number of students rose from 16 in 1960-61 to 64 in 1965-66.

Adult Literacy and Social Education

Referring to the efforts made in the former Bhavnagar State for the removal of illiteracy, the 1931 Census Report of that State observes "The last but not the least is the scheme known as the *Akshar Gyan Yojana* of late taken in hand by enterprising promoters of the Dakshinamurti. It aims at removing mass illiteracy obtaining in rural population by training them in the art of reading through the agency of volunteers specially trained for this purpose. They undertake lecture tours from village to village, acquainting them with the alphabet and then teach them to decipher the written character. Writing is not to be taught. These people will, therefore, not be literate in the census sense according to which only those who can both read and write are literate."[1]

In 1945 the former Bhavnagar State had undertaken a campaign for the removal of illiteracy in Gadhada mahal. The experiment proved a success. The drive has been intensified since Independence, when during the First Five Year Plan, 200 adult literacy classes were started and the number rose to 704 in the year 1961.

Education among Backward Classes and Tribes

(a) *Extent of Literacy and Education as Revealed by the Census of 1961*

Statistical data compiled by 1961 Census gives separate figures of literacy and levels of educational attainment also among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The wide gap that exists between the general population and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different educational levels in rural and urban areas is aptly illustrated by the statement given below.

1. Trivedi R. K., Bhavnagar State Census, 1931, Part I, Report, p. 226

STATEMENT XV·4

Percentage Distribution of General Population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by Educational Levels in Rural and Urban Areas, 1961

Sl. No.	Educational levels	Rural			Urban		
		Per cent of general population	Per cent of Scheduled Caste population	Per cent of Scheduled Tribe population	Per cent of general population	Per cent of Scheduled Caste population	Per cent of Scheduled Tribe population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Total	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**
1	Illiterate	80.63	88·25	..	55.03	77.51	57.75
2	Literate (without educational level)	6.92	5.07	..	10.26	9.12	18.31
3	Primary or Junior Basic ..	12.26	6.62	100·00	31.05	12.98	23.94
4	Matriculation and above ..	00.19	00.06	..	3.66	00.39	..

It is significant to note that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who were suffering from various handicaps in the past have been gradually realising the need for educating their children. The liberal assistance offered and the various schemes (mentioned in this section) for the promotion of education formulated by government, have helped spread of literacy and education among them, though the level of literacy is much lower than that of the general population. The only Scheduled Tribe of the district called 'Siddi' has made considerable headway in respect of education, as it is found mostly in urban areas. Four persons residing in rural areas have all attained the education level of "Primary or Junior Basic". As is to be expected the level of educational attainment is higher in towns than in villages.

(b) Educational Facilities for Backward Classes Students

Bhavnagar State offered a number of concessions to provide better educational facilities for the children of the depressed classes in the form of scholarships and grants. To ensure more efficient management the State had undertaken the management of five shcools for the depressed classes, bringing the total of indigenous Harijan schools under Darbar management to 10. After the integration of princely States, the former Government of Saurashtra took various steps to better the economic condition of Harijans and spent large sums of money to encourage education among them. Harijan children were exempted from payment of fees in schools and colleges. Liberal grants-in-aid to the extent of 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred were made available to hostels providing facilities

to the Backward Classes students. "As a further inducement to mixing an extra 10 per cent grant was given to Harijan hostels admitting 10 per cent of the caste Hindus and *vice versa*."[1]

Over and above the schemes included in the First Plan, certain schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, ex-criminal tribes and other Backward Classes were also undertaken by the Saurashtra Backward Classes Board. Schemes for educational upliftment included establishment of adult education centres, culture centres and residential schools. A culture centre worked for the educational, social and cultural betterment of Backward Classes children. The Board had established 8 *sanskar kendras.* This programme was continued in the Second and Third Five Year Plans. By 1961-62 there were 12 cultural centres and 10 educational centres functioning in the district. The Government of Saurashtra also gave grant-in-aid to the Backward Classes Board for construction of buildings for Harijan hostels. This scheme was continued in the composite State of Bombay and is in operation in Gujarat State. A brief description of some of the important schemes designed to promote literacy and education among these disadvantageous classes is given below.

(i) *Secondary Education*—Till 1962-63 all Backward Classes pupils receiving secondary education were given tuition fees irrespective of income. But from 1963-64 the Government of Gujarat has introduced an income limit. Backward Classes students appearing in S. S. C. Examination are granted examination fees also. The State Government also awards scholarships on merit-*cum*-poverty basis to Backward Classes students.

(ii) *Higher Education*—Under the Government of India scheme for the award of scholarships for post-matric studies to Backward Classes students, the State Directorate of Social Welfare awards scholarships to eligible Backward Classes students studying for post-matric courses. The amount of scholarships range from Rs. 27 to 75 per month per student according to the subjects (Arts, Science, Medical, Engineering, etc.) taken by the students, their attendance as also whether they are hostellers or day scholars. The scheme is administered by the State Government on behalf of the Government of India from 1959-60.

With a view to make it easy for Backward Classes students to secure admission in various courses in colleges and in hostels attached to them government have reserved seats for them.

Over and above these educational concessions, voluntary agencies conducting Backward Classes hostels are granted financial assistance. There are eight hostels for students of Backward Classes communities in Bhavnagar district, viz.:

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1. VAKIL and LAKDAWALA, *Economic Survey of Saurashtra*, p. 371

1 Shri Meghji Pethraj Sarvajanik Chhatralaya, Savarkundla
2 Ambla Chhatralaya, Ambla
3 Lokshala, Vartej
4 Lokshala Chhatralaya, Malpara
5 Lokshala Chhatralaya, Khadsali
6 Shri Meghji Pethraj Kumar Chhatralaya, Palitana
7 Shri Sarvajanik Kanya Chhatralaya, Bhavnagar
8 Shri Thakkar Bapa Sarvajanik Kumar Chhatralaya, Bhavnagar

In 1960-61, 366 students were enabled to reside in these hostels by providing financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 54,621. Financial assistance in respect of fees to 181 Harijan students in the Second Five Year Plan amounted to Rs. 9,145. The Directorate of Technical Education runs an industrial centre at Bhavnagar, where free education is imparted to students of Backward Classes in mechanics, electrical engineering, carpentry, radio engineering, etc. A Backward Classes student receiving education in this institution is paid Rs. 25 by way of scholarship.

B—Culture

Literary activities in Gujarat have come to the people in two forms, viz., folklore and written literature. One was the monopoly of bards known as Bhat, Charan, Barot, Gadhavi, etc., who used to commit to heart and narrate semi-historical or imaginary stories of love, valour, chivalry, sacrifice and heroism. Parts of such stories were pithily condensed in couplets or *doohas* and *sorthas*, while longer narratives were composed in bardic prosody. This type of folklore had its protagonists in Bhavnagar State which patronised it by generous grants in cash and land. In the present times the contribution made by Kavi Dula Bhaya alias 'Kag' to bardic literature is unique. His 7 volumes of *kagwani* are written in *charani* style. His efforts to preserve and revive folklore and folk-music have been recognised by the award of Padmashri. Another name of no less renown is that of Zaverchand Meghani who will be referred to later.

EARLY INFLUENCES

Modern Gujarati began to shape itself after the middle of the 19th century. Bhavnagar, on account of its geographical position on the mouth of the Gulf of Cambay came into greater contact with Surat, Broach and Bombay, which could be approached more easily by sea-route. Educational Officers going to Rajkot from mainland Gujarat travelled through Bhavnagar. Kavi Dalpatram, who first availed himself of this facility, wrote *Vijay Vinod* in dedication to Thakore Vajesinhji. His visit gave great impetus to the local writers. Meetings of bards, poets, literatores and scholars were held regularly in the upper storey of the City Palace every Wednesday, and that part of the building where they were held came to be known as Budhvario Bungalow. Encouragement and facilities for the development of literary talent thus ran side by side with the growth of public instruction.

The famous poet Narmadashanker influenced not a little prose writi at Bhavnagar, which in the initial stages was not of a high order. It w confined to religious subjects or translations. The poet was so impress by the Gujarati pronunciations of Bhavnagar that it led him to rema that they were the most chaste among the Gujarati speaking peop Govardhanram Tripathi, the celebrated modern Gujarati novelist, came Bhavnagar as Secretary to the Diwan, where he derived considerable mater for his famous novel, *Saraswatichandra*. Narayan Hemchandra translat Bengali novels and short stories into Gujarati. More than half of l 80 publications were encouraged and paid for by Bhavnagar State. Anoth eminent writer associated with Bhavnagar was Manilal Nabhubhai Dwive who wrote both poetry and drama and translated Sanskrit dramas Bhavabhooti into Gujarati. He wrote on Yoga and Vedanta and translat *Zenoni* by Lytton into Gujarati by the pen name of *Gulabsinh*.

The vernacular schools of those days used to teach prosody at high levels. This also gave rise to several teachers who tried their hand versification. The starting of Samaldas College gave further impetus literary activity in the city and attracted some of the professors who we eminent men of letters to Bhavnagar.

Among the outstanding literary figures this region has produced, mentic must be made of Sursinhaji Gohil, the ruler of Lathi, (1874-1900) who lat became famous as 'Kalapi'. Looking to the short span of his life ar still shorter period of his literary activity. his contribution can be calle prodigious. He gave to Gujarat an epic called *Hamirji Gohel* and a long narrative poem called *Hridaya Triputi*, which was partly the poet's ow autobiography describing love's triangle and its conflicts in which all tl poignant moods, passion and pathos of a love-lorn swain are laid bar A collection of his poems *Kalapi-no-Kekarav* was posthumously publishe

Poet 'Kant', Manishankar Ratnaji Bhatt, came to Bhavnagar towar the end of the 19th century. An eminent poet and educationist, he ha written on the History of Pedagogy and published longer narrative poen and other works. He has translated in Gujarati some of Swedenborg works, St. John's Gospel from the New Testament, the Nicomachian Ethi of Aristotle and one of the dialogues of Plato, viz., *Phaedrus*, and als written some historical plays.

Ranjitram Vavabhai Mehta who was the first to think of a literary co ference, later organised as Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, lived at Bhavnag in the first decade of the 20th century. As a good critic and scholar he di pioneer work in many fields.

Sir Prabhashanker Pattani, who headed the administration of Bhavnag State for a number of years encouraged literary activities in various way He himself was a man of letters and wrote didactic verses. *Keshavkriti* is well-known collection of poems by his uncle.

Shri Vijayray Kalyanray Vaidya edited a magazine *Chetan* from Bombay and later started a new quarterly called *Kaumudi* followed by *Manasi* from Bhavnagar. An eminent literary critic and essayist, his book on history of Gujarati literature is considered a standard work on the subject.

Bhavnagar has thus made notable contribution to the various fields of literary activities in Gujarat by producing some of the eminent men of letters, poets, journalists, and critics who also count among themselves such persons as Gaganvihari Mehta, the late Krishnalal Shridharani, Prof. A. M. Raval and many others.

SIHOR

Sihor was in its modest way a seat of learning, where many Shastris well-versed in Sanskrit formerly resided. Kavi Govind Gilabhai of Sihor had an honoured place among writers of old Hindi. He has 21 books in Hindi to his credit. He also contributed towards the completion of *Pravin Sagar*. *Kataksha Kavyo* and *Unmatta Ganga* are the contributions made in the field of humour and satire by that veteran writer, Devakrishna Pitambar Joshi.

MAHUVA

Mahuva gave to Gujarat many people notable in the field of commerce, industry, religion and literature towards the end of the last century. Outstanding among them all was Veerchand Raghavji, a scholar of Jain philosophy, who represented India at the Chicago Conference of World Religions in 1893 along with Pandit Lalan who later resided for several years at Madhada in this district.

BOTAD

The eminent folklorist, Zaverchand Kalidas Meghani settled at Botad in Bhavnagar district where he lived till his death in 1947. Meghani to whom Gandhiji referred to as a *rashtriya shayar* (national poet) moved the masses to their very depths by his inspiring and patriotic songs which he composed and sang in his melodious and sonorous voice. His vast and varied literary activity covered a wide range of subjects, mainly derived from the folklore and folk-songs of Saurashtra, which he revived and unearthed with patient study and research.

Damodar Khushaldas Botadkar belonged to that order of poets in the beginning of the 20th century, who contributed so largely towards enrichment of Gujarati language. Various collections of his poems are published as (1) *Kallolini*, (2) *Srotasvini*, (3) *Nirzarani*, (4) *Shaivalini* and (5) *Ras-tarangini*.

LITERARY ACTIVITIES OF DAKSHINAMURTI

Besides conducting novel experiments in the field of education, the Dakshinamurti institution had made a unique contribution to the literary activities of the district and Gujarat by producing a number of books on diverse subjects including small story books and others on the line of nursery rhymes in simple Gujarati.

LITERARY SOCIETIES

Besides individuals, various associations and institutions in Bhavnagar have helped strengthen its literary atmosphere. Bhavnagar Sahitya Sabha is a long-established institution under whose auspices the 7th session of the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad was held at Bhavnagar in 1924.

A number of literary circles like Kavya Premi Mandal, Kavya Sabha and Kalam Mandal helped keep alive the literary tradition of Bhavnagar. Kavya Premi Mandal of the early twentieth century was followed in the latter half of the century by Kavya Sabha and Kalam Mandal. While all of them worked in collaboration, Kavya Sabha laid particular emphasis on Persian prosody. Among the earliest members of the Kavya Sabha the name of Ibraheem Samija who wrote under the pen-name 'Khalil' deserves mention. He was technically trained in Persian prosody. He was a poet as well as a musician. Bred up in one of the Havelis of Jamnagar, he was in the police force of Bhavnagar. His *gazals* posthumously published are called *Khalil-ni-Shaery*. They have a lyrical merit which is rare and scrupulously conform to the rules of Persian prosody. Some of the active members of Kavya Sabha worth mention are Kismat Kuraishi, a writer of four-line couplets later well-known for his *gazals*, Muqbil Kuraishi, Arzoo Noorani, Mahommadhussain Keshvani, *alias* Sakin and Vali Mahmad Haji Siddiqe Lakhani who wrote verses and *gazals*.

MUSIC AND PAINTING

Music—Maharaja Bhavsinhji was a great lover and patron of music. He encouraged a number of artists at his court and helped them in a variety of ways. Jamshed N. Unwalla, the then Principal of Samaldas College, was a student of European music. He is said to have advised Dahyalal Shivram, the court singer, in the arrangement of his work on music. Dahyalal composed *Sangit Kaladhar*, which is regarded an authoritative work on music. He was also responsible for the preparation of notations of songs and poems which were got composed and published by Maharaja Bhavsinhji. Dalsukhram Bhojak and Shivrambhai were other court musicians of note. Govindprasad Gopalprasad Pande, a distinguished scholar of Indian music, made Bhavnagar his home after he left his service in Limbdi State. Ustad Khansaheb Rahimkhanji was one of the two best sitarists of the country, who received a certificate of merit from Queen Victoria. Chandraprabha, another court singer, secured for herself a very high place in the world of music.

Painting—The Saurashtra style of painting called *shilavat* or *salat* style is very well represented in the Darbargadh frescoes at Sihor depicting the battle of Chital and other historical incidents. This artistic tradition has been kept alive to this day by a number of artists, old and young who have distinguished themselves by their individual style of painting. The eminent

artist of Gujarat, Ravishanker Raval, hails from Bhavnagar. Others whose contribution to this branch of fine arts is noteworthy are Somalal Shah, Markand Bhatt, Vrajlal Trivedi and Khodidas Parmar.

Saptakala—This is an institution started by the late Jagdip Virani to promote public interest in music, dancing and painting. Thanks to the efforts of his admirers and friends, the classes started by him carry on the cultural activities started by him even after his death in 1956.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Among the varied factors that contributed to the development of literary and cultural activities in Bhavnagar district. mention must be made of a number of religious institutions whose contribution to the literary and cultural life of the people has been remarkable. The three institutions which have done creditable work in the study and research of Jain philosophy and culture are Shri Jain Atmanand Sabha, Jain Dharma Prasarak Sabha and Yashovijayji Granthmala. They possess a very valuable treasure of ancient manuscripts in Magadhi and Sanskrit, which are very well preserved. These three institutions have to their joint credit the publication of 125 volumes in Sanskrit and 150 volumes in Gujarati as a result of the researches in ancient Jain literature undertaken by them. The two libraries they possess contain valuable works on Jainism, other systems of philosophy and various other subjects.

The contribution made by the Vaishnavite sect called Swaminarayan to the literary and cultural activities of the district cannot be minimised. The Swaminarayan Sampraday was established in 1804 by Shri Sahajanand Swami, popularly known as Shriji Maharaj. A detailed description of this sect is given in Chapter III—People. Its contribution to the literary and cultural activities of the time includes (i) a number of religious books dealing with the *vishishtadvait* philosophy, (ii) *bhajans* and *kirtans* or devotional songs composed by the members of its spiritual order and (iii) incidents and anecdotes in the life of the founder. The *vachanamrit* or the encyclical perorations of the founder to his devotees and followers explain the highest philosophy in simple language, which can be easily understood by the masses. Composed in Sanskrit verse, *shikshapatri* or the code of moral instructions lays down Swami's preachings in the conduct of daily life to the various sections of his followers. It enjoins upon them the practice of piety, non-violence, trust, toleration, *brahmacharya*, abstention from non-vegetarian food and intoxicating drinks. It advises regular keeping of accounts, avoidance of debts, and forbids theft and adultery.

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

The establishment of a branch of the Theosophical Society at Bhavnagar gave further encouragement to literary activity which took the shape of translation and publication of the works of Mrs. Annie Besant and others into Gujarati.

Publication

The general mode of publication in those days required the author to go from place to place in search of subscribers who would agree to purchase one or more copies of the publication when printed but pay for it in advance. By this method the author was enabled to defray the initial expenses of his publication. The State of Bhavnagar encouraged many such authors. Maharaja Bhavsinhji, the ruler of Bhavnagar, was a patron of music and took great interest in literary activities. Besides a standard work on Indian medicine, called *Vanaspati Gunadarsha* and another on music called *Sangit Kaladhar*, he caused several books to be published which included three volumes of *Sangit Mala*, *Iliad*, *Horatious*, and *Neeti-vinod* in verse. The latter was a collection of instructive tales with songs appended to each story. Tagore's *Gitanjali* translated in Gujarati by poet Kant was published by Her Highness, and later reprinted by Sastu Sahitya Vardhak Mandal. Purushottamdas Gigabhai Shah, bookseller and publisher, translated 'Rajasthan' of Col. Todd. Abdulhussain Adamji was another such bookseller, who had about a hundred publications to his credit. The Dakshinamurti had a publishing house of its own which during the course of about a quarter of a century published about 250 books on educational subjects, besides text books, and monthlies on primary and secondary education. Associated with the Dakshinamurti and later on with Gram Dakshinamurti at Ambla, Moolshankar Mohanlal Bhatt translated into Gujarati the famous books of Jules Verne which included *Chandralokma Musafari*,[1] *80 Divasma Prithvi Pradakshina*,[2] *Sagar Samrat*,[3] and Victor Hugo's famous novel *Les Miserables*.

Periodicals

Particulars of cultural and literary periodicals published in this district are given below.

Classification	Name in Gujarati	Classification	Name in Gujarati
Weekly	*Jain*	Monthly—*contd.*	*Milap*
	Pagdandi		*Modh Mahodaya*
	Bhavnagar Samachar		*Shri Saurashtra Dasha Shrimali Sukhadia Samachar*
Fortnightly	*Dharmaraj*		
	Abhipray		*Shri Jaindharma Prakash*
	Nehru Samachar		
Monthly	*Atmadharma*		
	Shiksha Patrika		
	Atmanand Prakash	Bi-lingual monthly in Hindi and Gujarati	*Shrimali Abhyudaya*
	Audichya Prakash		
	Darshan		
	Gharshala		
	Kodiyun	Bi-lingual bi-monthly in Hindi and Gujarati	*Charan*
	Kshatriya Mitra	Gujarati Quarterly	*Fulpandadi*

1. *A Voyage to the Moon*
2. *Around the World in 80 days*
3. *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS

During the ancient period there seems to have been a very good library at Valabhi as appears from the liberal grants the Maitraka rulers made for the collection of books.[1] In 1963 there were nine libraries in Bhavnagar city besides a number of others in the different talukas/mahals of the district. The names of these libraries are : (1) District Library, (2) Barton Library, (3) Kanbivad Seva Samaj Library, (4) Gandhi Smriti Library, (5) Sishuvihar, (6) Ramdas Ashram Pustakalaya, (7) Theosophical Lodge Pustakalaya, (8) Nav-Juvan Sangh Library, (9) Antar Rashtriya Vanchanalaya.

The important among them are described below.

Gandhi Smriti, Bhavnagar—Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel laid the foundation stone of Gandhi Smriti on January 15, 1948 at Bhavnagar. The aim of the Smriti is to keep Gandhian thought alive in all its aspects. It is a living monument to Gandhiji, whose associations with Bhavnagar were old and varied. Gandhiji studied at Samaldas College, Bhavnagar in 1888, visited Bhavnagar in 1915 in connection with the Gokhale Memorial Fund, in 1925 as the President of the Third Kathiawar Conference and in 1934 during his Harijan tour. The Gandhi Smriti which was declared open on 1st November, 1955 by the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is managed by a trust created in 1950 by the Government of Saurashtra. The Bhavnagar State had donated Rs. 5 lakhs towards the construction of its building. The land was donated by two businessmen of Bhavnagar.

The institution runs a library which has about 40,000 books on Gandhian thought and social sciences, a Gandhi picture gallery and museum, and a Khadi Gramodyoga Bhandar. The library attached to the Gandhi Smriti aims at collecting and preserving documents of historical importance from all over Saurashtra. The section on Indian History contains a large number of such documents. Two more sections containing documents of historical and political importance from the former States of Kathiawar have been lately added. All these activities are being gradually extended. Periodically it arranges lectures on Gandhian thought by eminent scholars, screens films on Gandhiji as well as on literary and cultural subjects and conducts classes in Hindi, basic education, adult education, handicrafts, etc. It also maintains a nature cure clinic based on Gandhiji's ideals. The Smriti organises study circles, grants special scholarships for research in Gandhian thought and arranges dramatic and literary competitions.

The museum located on the ground floor of the Smriti presents a visual biography of Gandhiji. It contains 700 photographs depicting important events in Gandhiji's life and models of the Sevagram hut, the Sabarmati Ashram and the Rajghat. Replicas of articles used by Gandhiji, different types of *charkhas* and *taklis* from Saurashtra and other parts of India and

1. VIRJI K. J., *Ancient History of Saurashtra*, p. 197

samples of old handloom and cottage industry goods are also exhibited. It also has an open air theatre constructed for cultural activities which the Smriti undertakes at regular intervals.

Barton Library and Museum—Situated in the heart of the city, Barton Library is perhaps one of the oldest leading libraries in Saurashtra. During the period of 80 years of its existence, it has developed into an excellent cultural centre of the city. The library is housed in a very spacious building having ten big apartments with a total area of 5,320 sq. feet. The reading room section of the library is visited daily by about 1,500 to 2,000 readers. The number of daily newspapers, weeklies, fortnightly periodicals and magazines received by the library is 168. It possesses a large collection of books in different languages and on different subjects like history, literature, philosophy, religion, science, biography, etc. There is a good number of Sanskrit works both printed and manuscripts. At the end of March 1965 the library had a collection of 41,055 books, classified broadly as follows : English 13,285, Gujarati 11,335, Hindi 2,629, Sanskrit 1,066, Marathi 49, Bengali 1, children's 6,214, besides those received as gift from United States Information Service (USIS) and other sources 6,473. The library annually spends Rs. 1,500 to 2,000 for purchase of new books. It receives an annual grant from the State Government to the extent of Rs. 7,000 and from Bhavnagar Municipality Rs. 6,000. It is managed by a committee consisting of members nominated by the State Government, Bhavnagar Municipality and other elected and co-opted members.

The museum which is located on the upper floor of the library building, contains an interesting collection of rare coins and specimens of art and industries. Besides 131 silver coins found in the house of a Rajput of Vadva in Bhavnagar and 1,200 copper coins found in a field near Panchtalavda, it has two old silver coins received from the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. Other important articles the museum contains are an interesting collection of arms and armours used by the former rulers of the State. All the articles placed in the museum have been classified.

District Library, Bhavnagar—In pursuance of the scheme for starting a District Library at each of the district headquarters initiated by the Government of Saurashtra, this library started working from 15th August, 1959. It has its own building with a separate reading section which is attended by about 700 visitors every day and a special section for children. The library has over 40,000 books on various subjects and in different languages. It had a total membership of 3,737 in 1965-66.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

The old Kathiawar Gazetteer mentions that the first dispensary was established in 1866 at Bhavnagar and that Bhavnagar was the first State to gain this privilege in Kathiawar. By 1882 the number of hospitals and dispensaries in Gohilwad Prant increased to 15. The places at which these 15 dispensaries were located were : Songadh, Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Kundla, Sihor, Talaja, Botad, Umrala. Gadhada, Palitana, Jasdan, Lathi. Babra and Chamardi[1], 8 in Bhavnagar State. In order to give benefits of the Western system of medicine, His Highness Maharaja Takhtsinhji constructed a hospital in 1892 which was named after him. By the year 1904-05 the total number of institutions that gave medical relief was 19, comprising one hospital, five dispensaries, one *Darbari Aushadhalaya*, and one Plague Hospital in the town of Bhavnagar, 10 dispensaries in the different mahals of the State and a small dispensary attached to Sir Takhtsinhji Poor House at the village Adhewada. In 1923 a new appointment of a travelling doctor was made in the State. He visited the villages where diseases appeared in an epidemic form. The system of keeping Ayurvedic medicines along with other medicines in the State dispensaries was also introduced in 1923. In this year also the experiment of free distribution of *Sudarshan* (Ayurvedic drug for fever) in every village was also introduced. The former State of Bhavnagar had thus taken systematic steps to control the spread of Malaria fever. In 1928-29 Major Sinton of Kasauli, the Director of Malarial Survey in British India was invited to Bhavnagar to report on the local conditions. He conducted minute inquries concerning the prevalence of disease and about the breeding of mosquitoes. His recommendations were carefully considered and implemented. The State of Palitana which now forms part of this district had also provided medical facilities to its population, which consisted of (1) The Mansinhji Hospital at Palitana, (2) The King Edward VII Memorial Dispensary at Gariadhar and (3) The Silver Jubilee Dispensary at Nani Rajasthali. The State also maintained 19 medical aid centres in the villages.

The foregoing analysis makes it abundantly clear that Gohilwad district at the time of the formation of Saurashtra State was comparatively well served in the provision of medical facilities. This is further corroborated

1. CAMPBELL J., Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, *Kathiawar*, Vol. VIII-B, p. 353, 1884

by the statement below, which shows medical facilities available on the eve of integration.

State	Number of hospitals	Number of dispensaries	Population served (000's) Hospital	Population served (000's) Dispensaries	Area served (sq. miles) Hospital	Area served (sq. miles) Dispensaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bhavnagar	5	38	124	16	592	78
Palitana ..	1	2	76	38	300	150

Source :

Memorandum submitted to Part B States Inquiry Committee, p. 95

Medical facilities were provided mostly free or at a nominal cost. Prior to the provision of medical facilities on western lines the indigenous systems of medicine was well spread and popular. The Bhavnagar *Vaidya Sabha*, which substantially contributed towards the development of Ayurvedic System of medicines, was given all encouragement by the State. Bhavnagar State had produced a number of *Vaidyas* of repute who were in demand outside the State.

VITAL STATISTICS

The data on vital statistics available being incomplete and defective are useful for drawing general conclusion only. The statement that follows gives the number of births, deaths and infant mortality in Bhavnagar district.

Number of Births Deaths and Infant Mortality in the District

Year	No. of births registered	No. of deaths registered	No. of deaths of infants registered
1	2	3	4
1957	22,950	10,940	1,750
1958	21,807	11,548	2,176
1959	25,851	10,114	2,160
1960 .	22,140	9,222	1,651
1961 .	27,772	10,160	1,974

Source:

Directorate of Public Health, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The statement indicates fluctuating tendencies in respect of the number of births and deaths registered. The number of deaths in respect of infants has, however, shown a steep rise during 1957 and 1958 and a sudden fall in 1959 and 1960. The number of infant deaths, however, showed an alarming rise in 1961.

General trend of Birth-rate, Death-rate and Natural increase in population, 1958-61

Year	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Natural increase in population	Infant death-rate
1	2	3	4	5
1958 ..	18·1	9·6	8·5	100
1959	24·1	9·4	14·7	84
1960 ..	20·1	8·4	11·7	75
1961 ..	24·6	9·0	15·6	71

Source :

Vital Statistics of India 1961, published by the Registrar General of India, New Delhi, p. 9, 1964

The statement reveals an increase in the rate of survival which may be attributed to improvement in medical and public health facilities since Independence.

IMPORTANT CAUSES OF MORTALITY

Some idea about the important causes of deaths in the district can be had from the statistics given below.

STATEMENT XVI·1

Sl. No.	Cause of death	1960
1	2	3
1	Cholera	3
2	Small-pox	23
3	Plague	...
4	Fevers	4,938
5	Dysentery and Diarrhoea	405
6	Respiratory disease	1,016
7	Suicide	10
8	Wounding or accident	170
9	Wild beasts	..
10	Snake bite	42
11	Rabies	14
12	All other causes	2,601
	Total	**9,222**

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Bhavnagar. p. 199

The statement reveals that deaths due to fevers and diseases of the respiratory system were by far the largest and respectively claimed 4,938 and 1,016 lives in 1960. Dysentery and diarrhoea could also be considered to be major diseases, deaths due to which numbered 405.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES

In the early decades of the twentieth century the territories of Bhavnagar and other States comprising the present revenue limits of the district were constantly attacked by two epidemics, viz., Plauge and Influenza. "Influenza which followed in the wake of plauge and whose toll of life was simply staggering continued in an endemic but milder form after its first virulent attack in 1918. This is amply demostrated by the curve of the birth-rate remaining low even in 1921-22. But no case of death from this disease has been reported for want of proper machinery for registering deaths which is ordinarily left in the hands of uneducated village officials. Many of the diseases like influenza, phthisis, etc., therefore, pass of under the more general heading 'fever' which claimed as many as 47,179 lives out of a total number of 74,955 deaths recorded during the decade."

This description of epidemics extracted from the Census report of Bhavnagar State, 1931, throws considerable light on the types of diseases prevalent in those days. In forties, however, malaria had its sway. "In Bhavnagar, malaria was the most extensive disease accounting for 30 per cent of the 271 thousand patients treated at the State Hospitals and dispensaries."[1]

1. VAKIL and LAKDAWALA, *Economic Survey of Saurashtra*, p. 360, 1953

MALARIA

The number of malaria patients had gone down substantially by 1950, owing to the successful working of the National Malaria Eradication Programme by the Government of Saurashtra. In 1949 it distributed anti-Malaria drugs and sprayed the affected areas with D.D.T. 'Saurashtra 1956', a Government of Saurashtra publication observes, "when Health Department started the work of protecting the people against Malaria in Datha area in Gohilwad district in 1948, the proportion of the disease there was seventy-eight per cent and now by the end of the year 1955-56, that it should have come down to 9·1 per cent is itself a testimony to the success of the campaign." The control programme included D.D.T. spraying of all houses twice a year during the transmission season in the hyper-endemic and endemic areas. Indoor spraying with D.D.T. was undertaken in all areas irrespective of whether it was classed as endemic or hyper-endemic. National Malaria Eradication Programme in the district is in charge of a separate unit at Bhavnagar which looks after all the talukas except Mahuva and Kundla, which are under Amreli district unit. Spraying staff is appointed seasonally for five months and 31 Malaria Surveillance Inspectors and 122 Surveillance Investigators are appointed for fortnightly house to house visits. The intensive efforts that have been made since Independence for the eradication of malaria have further reduced its incidence by bringing down the cases of malaria to 5,042 or 0·13 per cent out of a total number of 391,328 cases of various diseases reported in the district during the year 1961-62.

SMALL-POX

Small-pox even today ranks as one of the most important causes of blindness. In order to bring the disease under effective control the programme of vaccination was undertaken on a mass scale. The National Small-pox Eradication Programme which started from 1st July, 1962 in the Gujarat State was completed by the end of 1963 in the district. One unit consisting of Supervising Medical Officer, one Para Medical Assistant, two Health Educators, 12 Sanitary Inspectors, 60 Vaccinators, 12 Enumerators, 3 Drivers, 12 Attendants and one clerk was working in this programme under the direct supervision of the District Health Officer. The net results of the Eradication Programme have been the lowering of the incidence of the disease through vaccination of 56·6 per cent of the population of the district. Further staff was added to complete the target of 100 per cent coverage. In the result 87·5 per cent of the target was achieved, and the incidence of the disease considerably lowered. In 1961, deaths from Small-pox numbered 347 giving a ratio of 0·4 per thousand of population.

TUBERCULOSIS

Mention has already been made of this disease in the previous pages. Poor hygiene with poverty at its root has kept up the incidence of the disease at a high level. This is observed from the fact that as many as 7,940 persons suffered from this disease in the year 1964. Institutional treatment is provided

ded to patients in Shri K. J. Mehta, T. B. Hospital at Amargadh and Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital at Bhavnagar. B. C. G. inoculation gives immunity for a considerable period. The First, Second and Third Plans more or less concentrated on mass B.C.G. vaccination so as to protect the most vulnerable groups. Since the commencement of the scheme 576,634 persons in the district have been tested. Of these 142,830 cases which were found to be negative, 140,622 were vaccinated and 2,208 non-vaccinated up to December, 1961. Tuberculosis control on a mass scale, however, will be possible during the Fourth Plan, when a sufficient net work of Primary Health Centres and para medical staff will be available throughout the vast rural areas of the district.

Trachoma

Trachoma is a serious disease in the districts of Saurashtra. Its incidence in Bhavnagar district was 72·5 in 1961. Control measures were started from the beginning of the year 1961-62. At present there are 4 government units and two voluntary organisations in the State. No separate unit is functioning for Bhavnagar district.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

Organisation of Medical Department

The medical organisation in the district is essentially a hospital organisation designed to render medical relief to the general population. The Civil Surgeon, Bhavnagar, is the administrative head of the medical organisation in the district. He is directly subordinate to the Director of Health and Medical Services, Ahmedabad. He is in charge of the Civil Hospital of Bhavnagar and exercises control over subordinate medical officers. The dispensaries which are now under the charge of the District Panchayat are being looked after by Government Medical Officers who are considered to be on deputation.

Number and Location of Hospitals and Dispensaries

In Bhavnagar district at present there are 10 Hospitals and dispensaries run by government and nine dispensaries and one hospital run respectively by the District Panchayat and the Mahuva municipality. The particulars of these institutions are given below.

Sl. No.	Government hospitals and dispensaries	Hospitals and dispensaries run by district panchayat and other local bodies	
1	Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital and Gopnathji Maternity Home, Bhavnagar	Datha	Dispensary
2	Sihor Hospital and Maternity Home, Sihor	Jesar	,,
3	Sir Takhtsinhji Dispensary, Bhavnagar	Koliyak	,,
4	Javansinhji Dispensary, Bhavnagar	Kantvada	,,
5	Refugee Camp Dispensary, Bhavnagar	Trapaj	,,
6	Umar Junbhai Female Dispensary, Bhavnagar	Usrad	,,
7	Ben ba Naniben Female Dispensary, Bhavnagar	Vartej	,,
8	Shree Keshurdas Karsandas Hospital, Savarkundla	Paliyad	,,
9	Mansinhji Hospital and Maternity Home, Palitana	Umrala	,,
10	Mental Hospital, Akwada	Municipal Hospital, Mahuva	

The rate at which medical facilities have grown in the district can be gauged from the following statement.

Item	1950–51	1955–56	1960–61
Hospitals	5	5	6
Dispensaries	12	13	13
Beds	471	653	675

Source:

1. Census of India 1961, *Economic Trends and Projections*, Vol. V, Part I-A (iii)
2. Directorate of Public Health, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries in existence in 1950-51 and 1960-61 is negligible. But provision of beds has shown considerable expansion during the decade. Important medical institutions in the district are :

Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital, Bhavnagar—Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital was started in 1892 with a capacity of 55 beds. Its old building, representing Hindu style of architecture in red stone, was built in the year 1892 during the reign of His Highness Maharaja Sir Takhtsinhji. The hospital was ably managed and organised by Doctor Burjoji Beramji L. M. who had the honour to be the first chief medical officer of the State and who had played a substantial part in initiating the scheme of the hospital. As years passed by, with the advance of medical science, need for further development and expansion was keenly felt. The congestion in the out-patients and in-patients departments required to be relieved; number of operations had increased and special need was felt for modern diagnostic and therapeutic methods like X-rays, clinical laboratory, opthalmic, venereal, E.N.T., dental, electro-therapy, hydro-therapy and radium treatment. Urged by the above mentioned necessities a scheme was presented to the Darbar for the construction of a new hospital in the year 1931, which received great impetus and encouragement from His Highness Maharaja Krishnakumarsinhji. The foundation stone of the new building was laid in the year 1932. The new hospital, as it stands today, is a building in 'E' shape with both lateral arms joined to the back of the old building and the central arm reversed. The hospital has separate wards like (1) Minor Surgical Ward for males and females, (2) Major Surgical Ward for males and females, (3) Gynaecological Ward, (4) Children's Ward, (5) Radium Ward, (6) Paying Patients' Ward and (7) Isolation Ward. Steps were taken in the First Plan period to increase and improve the facilities provided in this hospital. A 10 bedded Isolation ward and 20 bedded T. B. patients ward were added. During the Second Five Year Plan period in the programme of increase in the number of beds, 20 beds were added to T. B. patient's ward. The total number of beds in this hospital in 1964-65 was 317; 172 for males and 145 for females. The total number of patients treated both indoor and outdoor was 77,787. The total expenditure incurred on the hospital during the year was Rs. 859,021.

Gopnathji Maternity Home, Bhavnagar—The events that led to the establishment of this maternity home are interesting. The Gopnathji temple in this district had large income. By 1915-16 it had accumulated a balance of some forty thousand rupees. Dayanandji, the enlightened *Brahmachari* of the place, in a spirit of broad-mindedness, approached the Darbar with a request that it was his desire to utilise this balance in a work of public utility and that a maternity hospital appealed to him as the most useful form of charity. He offered to hand over this amount to the Darbar on condition that the institution should be called the "Gopnathji Maternity Hospital", that the Darbar should construct a suitable building and undertake to manage the institution at their own cost. The interest realised from this donation was to be supplemented by the *Brahmachari* by a handsome annual grant from the savings of the temple for the maintenance of the hospital. This generous offer was accepted by the Darbar and the hospital was initially started with a capacity of 12 beds. Steps were taken to expand the capacity of beds after the formation of Saurashtra State. During the First Five Year Plan Gopnathji Maternity Home was expanded to accommodate 100 beds.

Sihor Hospital and Maternity Home, Sihor—The hospital at Sihor has been established with the donation of Rs. 51,000 received from Sheth Shri Pragjibhai Javerchand. The hospital has a total capacity of 12 beds. The maternity hospital has a total capacity of 8 beds. The total number of outdoor and indoor patients treated in the year 1964 was 35,134.

Sheth Keshurdas Karsandas Hospital, Savarkundla—This hospital at Savarkundla was opend on 21st April, 1959. The building of the hospital along with staff quarters and equipment has been donated by Sheth Shri Keshurdas. The hospital has also received a donation of Rs. 5 lakhs from the public. The hospital has a capacity of 84 beds out of which 30 beds are for males and 54 for females. It has also a maternity section. In the year 1965 the total number of indoor patients treated was 2,754, while the total number of outdoor patients was 20,486.

Mansinhji Hospital, Palitana—This hospital was built during the time of Palitana State in the year 1915. Along with the hospital, Bahadursinhji Tuberculosis Sanatorium was also constructed. In 1943 the hospital had an accommodation for 20 indoor patients. In the First Plan additional accommodation was provided for 12 beds. The total number of beds by 1965 was 35. The hospital includes a maternity home established in 1956 named as Maharani Sitaba Maternity Home, which has a total capacity of 12 beds. Donation of Rs. 50,000 for this maternity home was given by Maharaja Shri Bahadursinhji of Palitana. The total number of outdoor and indoor patients treated was 24,229 in the year 1965.

Mental Hospital, Akwada—The institution started functioning on 1st October, 1942 near Akwada, four miles from Bhavnagar. It had 12 beds and was initially started for lunatics from Bhavnagar State. The capacity of the

hospital was increased in 1950 when six more beds were added. The approved scale of accommodation, bed strength and actual population in the first week of January 1963 is shown in the following statement.

	Sanctioned accommodation	Inmates in the first week of January 1963
Males	12	18
Females	6	9
Total ..	18	27

Source :

Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Mental Hospitals in the State, 1964

The statement shows an excess of 9 patients over the sanctioned accommodation. In the year 1963 the average cost per patient was Rs. 618. The hospital is looked after by one medical officer who visits this hospital once a week from Bhavnagar.

Nurses Training School

During the time of Bhavnagar State a class was opened from 1st November, 1931 for teaching subjects like anatomy, physiology, midwifery, etc., at Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital and Shree Gopnathji Maternity Hospital. The course was for three years. The Red Cross Society awarded scholarship to 3 nurses.

In 1950 a nursing training school was started at Bhavnagar. During the First Five Year Plan the school trained 45 nurses. In the Second Five Year Plan, its training capacity was raised to 131. The number of students taking training in the year 1965 was 135.

Ayurvedic and Unani Hospitals

The Bhavnagar State had always patronised the Indian system of Medicine-*Ayurveda*. The State had produced a continuous line of *Vaidyas* of reputation devoted to *Ayurveda* as in the ancient scriptures, as it used to give all encouragement to the *Vaidyas* in furthering the cause of *Ayurveda*. The Bhavnagar *Vaidya Sabha* was given financial help and prominent *Vaidyas* were sent to conferences in various parts of India at State expense. The State rendered financial help also to *Ayurvedic* dispensaries established with the help of public donations. This is evident from the extract given below from Bhavnagar State Administration Report, 1927-28 which states, "Another philanthropic gentleman has donated Rs. 20,000 for opening an *Ayurvedic* dispensary. The offer has been accepted and it has been decided to open one. Over and above giving Rs. 20,000 for running the dispensary he has promised Rs. 5,000 for the building and the remaining Rs. 3,000 have been promised by the State. The dispensary will be conducted by the State and the deficit in the expenditure will be met from State funds. A suitable

advisory committee has been appointed for the dispensary." [1] This dispensary started initially from the donation by Shri Chunilal Bhaichand is still rendering valuable service to the people of Bhavnagar city.

As observed previously, by 1931-32 the State of Bhavnagar had started 2 *Ayurvedic* dispensaries. The number rose to 15 in the year 1943-44. After the formation of Saurashtra State the district witnessed substantial increase in *Ayurvedic* medical facilities. The former Government of Saurashtra had sponsored village medical relief scheme, whereunder six *Ayurvedic* dispensaries were started with the help of donations from the public. As it was not economical to provide *Ayurvedic* dispensaries in very small villages, arrangements were made for the distribution of medical boxes to small villages. The scheme of village medical relief through *Ayurvedic* medical chests was also continued in the Second and Third Five Year Plans. In 1961-62 in the district there were 243 big and 92 small medical chests.

The statement given below shows the number of dispensaries and patients treated.

Year	No. of *Ayurvedic* dispensaries	No. of patients treated
1956-57	21	123,784
1957-58	25	246,783
1958-59	33	207,537
1959-60	34	321,500
1960-61	36	734,622
1964-65	43	N. A.

N. A. = Not available

NOTE :

Data pertain to number of dispensaries run by District Local Board in the past and District Panchayat at present.

Source :

Pragatine Panthe, Bhavnagar Jillo, Pratham Sopan, p. 72

The above mentioned statement indicates that on account of financial assistance rendered by Government and District Panchayat, *Ayurvedic* medical facilities have increased substantially in the district. This is evident form the number of dispensaries which has increased from 21 in 1956-57 to 43 in 1964-65. Sizeable increase is also reported in respect of number of patients treated which was 123,784 in 1951-52 and 734,622 in 1960-61.

Smt. Tapibai Ayurvedic Hospital, Bhavnagar—The Hospital was started primarily for the students studying in J. P. *Ayurvedic* Mahavidyalaya. Shri Harilal Prabhudas in memory of his wife donated an amount of Rs. 25,000 for the establishment of an *Ayurvedic* hospital. The hospital started functioning in the year 1957 with a total capacity of 12 beds. The government took over the hospital along with the J. P. *Ayurvedic* Mahavidyalaya and made provision for meals. An outdoor patient department was opened in March 1965.

1. Bhavnagar State, *Annual Administration Report*, p. 18, 1927-28

Other Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Shri Khushaldas J. Mehta Tuberculosis Hospital, Amargadh—Tuberculos patients from Saurashtra had to go to distant places for treatment which entailed great inconvenience besides heavy expenditure. In consideration of this serious and difficult situation the government of former Bhavnagar State had been anxiously considering for several years the ways and means to start a hospital for rational and cheap treatment of tuberculosis. In November 1944 under the patronage and competent guidance of late His Highness Krishnakumarsinhji, the State Government embarked upon the project of building a hospital in a suitable place in the State. On account of its natural surrounding and bracing climate, Amargadh became the obvious choice for the site of the hospital. It is located on an elevated plateau at an altitude of 200 feet above sea level. Surrounded by hills on one side and a plain on the other, it presents a beautiful panoramic view. The climate of the place is reputed for its healing qualities for many diseases, tuberculosis in particular.

Shri Khushaldas Kurji Parekh, a prominent social worker, persuaded Shri Khushaldas J. Mehta of Talaja to come forward with an aggregate donation of Rs. 165,000. To this the State of Bhavnagar added a munificent sum of Rs. 100,000. The foundation stone of Shri K. J. Mehta, T. B. Hospital was laid on the 12th day of April 1945 by Maharaja Shri Krishnakumarsinhji. The construction work lasted for 4 years and after spending a total sum of Rs. 9 lakhs, the hospital was finally completed and declared open by His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, the Raj Pramukh of Saurashtra State on the 13th April, 1949. This institution is the most important of its kind in the whole of Saurashtra and Gujarat. From the very beginning it had a well equipped clinical laboratory, a modern X-ray unit, and an adequate power house for the supply of electric current.

In 1949 the hospital had an accommodation of 48 beds—32 beds in general ward and 16 beds in separate cottages. A number of cottages were added and general wards expanded from time to time. In 1957 the accommodation for indoor patients went up to 248 beds. During the Second Five Year Plan 125 more beds were added. Provision of additional beds and equipment was also made in the Third Five Year Plan. Thus, at the end of the year 1964-65 the hospital had a total accommodation of 525 beds. During the same year the number of patients treated was 1,463 and the expenditure incurred Rs. 855,292.

Shri M. P. Shah Kusht Nivaran Dham, Bhavnagar—The present Shri M. P. Shah Kusht Nivaran Dham was originally called Sir Takhtsinhji Leper Asylum at Adhewada. It was started by Bhavnagar State in the year 1900 in memory of Maharaja Takhtsinhji. During those days it was meant both for the lepers as well as for the infirm, the total strength of inmates being about 30. It was managed by the State *Rajya Kharcha Department*. A Medical Officer from the State Hospital used to attend the patients

once a week. The management of the institution was taken over by the Medical Department of the former Saurashtra State in December 1949, after which the infirmary was closed and only lepers were admitted. The average number of patients at that time was 45. The institution was reorganised in the year 1952, when an advisory committee consisting of five leading citizens of Bhavnagar was appointed by the Government of Saurashtra. The institution recorded substantial progress under the able guidance of this committee.

In 1955 Shri Meghji Pethraj offered a generous donation of Rs. 4 lakhs for starting a Kusht Nivaran Dham at Bhavnagar. The foundation stone was laid by the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 1st November, 1955. The hospital was opened on 28th September, 1959 by late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of India, when all the patients from the old hospital were shifted to the newly built building provided with all the modern facilities and located on the outskirts of the city near Ruvapari temple. The total cost of construction of the new building came to Rs. 5½ lakhs. The hospital has ten wards for indoor patients (2 for females and 8 for males). The hospital has a total capacity of 250 beds. The main building of the hospital consists of doctor's outdoor section, operation theatre, post operative ward, physiotherapy department, laboratory, and a compounding room. Since 1st February, 1960 the Gandhi Smriti Trust is in charge of the asylum.

Mahuva Hospital, Mahuva—The Mahuva municipality runs a hospital whose total capacity of beds is 100 and is equipped with all modern equipments. The hospital forms part of a medical unit which comprises a maternity hospital having a total capacity of 28 beds, two outdoor dispensaries, two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and one Family Planning Centre. The total number of outdoor and indoor patients treated at the hospital in the year 1964 was 54,786.

Number of Doctors

The total number of doctors in the district according to the Census of 1951 was 386 of whom 376 were males and 10 females. Between 1951 and 1961 there was a considerable increase in their number which rose to 513 doctors, 482 males and 31 females at the Census of 1961. In terms of population served, there was one doctor for 2,294 persons in 1951 as against 2,182 in 1961.

Medical and Public Health Laboratories and Research Centres

Clinical Laboratory, Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital, Bhavnagar—In the district there are two laboratories. One clinical laboratory is attached to Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital and another to Shri K. J. Mehta T. B. Hospital. The former has been fitted with all the latest apparatuses and appliances, necessary for all classes of clinical work (a) pathological, (b) bacteriological, (c) biochemical and (d) animal section for investigation purposes. The clinical laboratory includes toxicology and medico-legal section for the investigation of various kinds of poisons, blood stains and semen stains.

Clinical Laboratory, K. J. Mehta T. B. Hospital, Amargadh—The laboratory attached to this hospital is fully equipped. Over and above routine examinations, it carries out sensitivity tests, cultures, blood grouping and bio-chemical tests.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME

No health problem would be complete without effective steps taken to tackle the most pressing and important of all problems, the menacing problem of over population. Family Planning forms a very impotant part of the health programme and is given top priority. The programme is carried out under the supervision of the medical officer of primary Health Centre. The centre distributes contraceptives amongst the needy married couples. The most recent development in the field of family planning has been the use of the intra-uterine contraceptive device known as Lippes loop which is made of polyethylene and shaped like double S, with nylon threads at the lower end. The District Health Officer with the help of the District Family Planning Officer organises camps for popularising the use of this device.

Family Planning Association, Bhavnagar

The Family Planning Association is functioning since 1960 in Bhavnagar city. It is affiliated to the All-India Family Planning Association, Bombay. The association runs a family planning centre, which conducts propaganda in towns and villages and also maintains a library on family planning. It has a sterilisation unit which organises camps for operations. Till 1965, 1,000 males have been operated and contraceptives supplied to needy couples. Appreciable progress has been made in respect of popularisation of Lippes loops. The number so far supplied is 750. The Association has a branch at Palitana doing similar work.

PUBLIC HEALTH SET-UP

Before the introduction of Panchayat Raj in Gujarat,Public Health work in the district was looked after by 3 different agencies, namely, (i) Government, (ii) Municipalities and (iii) District Local Board. The Directorate also functioned under two separate officers, namely, (i) the Director of Medical Services and (ii) Director of Public Health. Pursuant to the recommondations of the Bhor Committee and all-India accepted principles of integration of Public Health and Medical Services in the States, the Government of Gujarat in 1962 placed both these Departments under one Head designated as the Director of Health and Medical Services. Such a combined set-up was in existence in the former State of Saurashtra. The integration of these two types of Health Services under one Head helps to co-ordinate different types of health activities, curative, preventive and promotional, which are not isolated but interdependent for ensuring real progress of the total health of the people. When the Panchayat Raj was introduced from May 1963, a district level Public Health Service was organised and placed under the unified control of the

District Health Officer, who was in charge of hospitals and dispensaries in the district which did not include those located at the district headquarters and also excluded specialised hospitals.

Public Health administration in the district is headed by a full-time District Health Officer. He is assisted by one Epidemic Medical Officer, 5 Sanitary Inspectors and 2 Sanitary Sub-Inspectors or vaccinators in each taluka, and a sanitary squad consisting of one *Mukadam* and three *Majdoors* also for each district. The District Health Officer organises measures of public sanitation and hygiene at fairs and festivals and investigates the causes, origin and spread of infectious diseases such as small-pox, cholera, whooping cough, plauge, etc. As the Municipalities are primarily concerned with health services in urban areas he advises them about health, sanitation, drainage and water supply, inspects primary health centres and maternity and child welfare centres established under various programmes such as child welfare, rural family planning and looks after the working of the National Malaria Eradication Programme. The sanitary squads are employed for cleaning villages, disinfection of drinking water and disinfection of infected materials in case of infectious diseases, construction of soak pits and latrines suitable for rural areas and removal of manure heaps from inhabited areas. Vaccination and re-vaccination are carried out on a large scale by Sanitary Sub-Inspectors and Vaccinators.

Health Education

The success or otherwise of any programme depends upon the willing co-operation and participation of the people for whom it is meant. Health Education component has always remained one of the important factors in the total activity of health programme. With this end in view. health propaganda is carried out by the District Health Officer and Medical Officer through group talks amongst the village people. The State Government has started State Health Education Bureau under an Assistant Director of Public Health in charge of the bureau.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

For providing basic health services in rural areas and also for carrying out multi-purpose functions of preventive and curative as well as maternity and child health services in an integrated manner, government has undertaken the scheme of establishment of primary health centres. Each primary health centre is staffed by a Medical Officer, one health visitor or nurse-midwife, four midwives (one for the main centre and three for sub-centres), one compounder, one sanitary inspector, one driver, three attendants, one woman attendant, one sweeper and three part-time attendants for midwives of sub-centres.

In order to provide the rural areas with preventive and curative medical facilities the former Saurashtra Government had started health centres in rural areas at places having transport facilities and large enough to remain in touch with bigger cities.

In Bhavnagar district three primary health centres were established at Botad, Talaja and Gariadhar in the First Five Year Plan. Three more centres were opened in the Second Five Year Plan at Gadhada, Vanda and Songadh. In the Third Five Year Plan 8 more centres were opened at Valukad, Vallabhipur, Gundarda, Datha, Vartej, Tansa, Umrala and Mangadh. Thus, by March 1966 the total number of primary health centres reached 14.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

To help in lowering the high rate of mortality among the women of child-bearing ages as well as to reduce the high rate of infant mortality, the former Government of Saurashtra had started four maternity and child welfare centres in this district at Sihor, Mahuva, Savarkundla and Bhavnagar. Six more centres were started during the Second Five Year Plan. In 1964 there were 11 grant-in-aid maternity and child welfare centres run by local bodies and voluntary organisations under the technical supervision of the District Health Officer. In the rural areas the work pertaining to maternity and child welfare is carried out by the staff of the primary health centre.

UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE

The city of Bhavnagar was one of the earliest to have an underground drainage in the whole of Gujarat. A scheme for the disposal of rain and waste water was approved by the Bhavnagar Darbar and a branch of the Public Works Department was opened on 25th May, 1936 for its execution. The scheme was divided into two main groups, viz., (1) drainage of rain water with its outfall going into the main Bandar creek and (2) sewers for the disposal of waste water of the city. The major works connected with the scheme such as outfall sewers, main sewers, pumping stations, etc., were completed in the year 1940-41.

Extension Works

Most of the drains have been laid for the city in existence in 1940-41. Now the scheme is being extended to peripheral areas of Bhavnagar such as Krishnanagar area, Kumbharwada, extension on Chitra side on Rajkot road and other areas. The cost of the extension works is estimated to be Rs. 50 lakhs.

PROTECTED WATER SUPPLY

Bhavnagar Water Works

The water works were commenced in 1871 when the Gaurishanker lake was constructed some two miles south-west of the city. This lake has a gathering ground of five and a half square miles. These resources are supplemented by a dam thrown across the river Maleshwari, six miles further up, by which the catchment area is increased by thirty-six square miles. In 1887 Bhavnagar city was connected with the lake by a twenty inch main. The increasing population of the city and their growing needs necessitated further expansion. Accordingly in 1911-12 a service reservoir and five filter

beds with an aggregate area of 3,000 sq. yards were constructed. The old water supply scheme thus consisted of the Gaurishanker lake, the Bhikda pick-up weir and distribution system. The old works, however, were not sufficient for the city's needs. A severe drought was experienced in 1925. Tentative enquiries were made to provide an additional storage which was absolutely necessary to meet the ever increasing needs of the population. After a careful study of the surrounding country a suitable site was found for a new lake across the narrow gorge of the Rajpara Nala, about 10 miles from Bhavnagar near the temple of Khodiyar Mata. This Khodiyar lake has the same capacity as the Gaurishanker lake, i.e., about 1,450 million gallons. It is directly fed by its catchment and there are no chances of the floods going into waste until the lake overflows. The 24" gravitation main from the Khodiyar lake is 10 miles in length before it enters the filter house.

At present the city of Bhavnagar gets its water supply from three lakes, viz., Gaurishanker lake, Khodiyar lake and Sihor lake. Lakes of Sihor and Khodiyar are joined through a pipeline of 15" diameter to augment the water supply to Bhavnagar city in the event of scarcity.

Sl. No.	Source	Capacity in M. C. feet	
		Net	Gross
1	2	3	4
1	Gaurishanker lake ..	576	600
2	Khodiyar lake ..	225	232
3	Sihor lake ..	200	220

In normal years all the three sources can supply 7 million gallons of water per day. The water is filtered by a Paterson Plant which was installed by the Bhavnagar State near Takhteshwar temple at a cost of Rs. 533,729. This plant, which is the first of its kind in Saurashtra, distributes about 46 lakhs gallons of filtered water everyday in the city. In order that the city may get an uninterrupted supply of water the Bhavnagar city Water Supply Scheme is under execution. This scheme which is estimated to cost Rs. 38·85 lakhs will augment water supply by laying new pipelines and construction of additional storage tanks at suitable places in the city. A sum of Rs. 20·60 lakhs has already been spent under the scheme.

In order to cope up with the further requirements of industries and the needs of expanding population during the ensuing decade, an additional provision for 10,000,000 gallons of water per day is still required. The Bhavnagar Municipality in consultation with government has, therefore, prepared another scheme of water supply to draw water from the Shetrunji Reservoir. This scheme provides for increased water supply in two stages, viz., 5,000,000 gallons per day during the first stage and additional 10,000,000 gallons per day during the second stage making a total 15,000,000 gallons. This scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 35 lakhs.

Sihor Town Water Supply

During the time of Bhavnagar State an earthen dam over the river Gautami at Sihor was constructed in 1933 for supplying water to Sihor town. The works included a percolation well, high level service reservoir, engine-house, pumping plant and the laying and jointing of cast-iron distributing mains with water stands for public use. The growth in the population of the town has necessitated further increase in its water supply. A scheme for drawing water from a lake 1½ miles away from Sihor at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.16 lakhs has, therefore, been formulated.

Botad Town Water Supply

The constructional and allied works concerning the water distributing mains, pipes and fire hydrants, public water stand, etc., were completed and the pumping plant started supplying water from 25th October, 1935. The existing supply of water is sought to be augmented from a well at the bottom of a tank, one mile away from Botad at an estimated cost of Rs. 13·70 lakhs.

The following schemes are described in the Chapter XIV–Local Self-Government.

Sl. No.	Scheme	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Palitana water supply scheme	22.60
2	Savarkundla water supply scheme	9.75
3	Mahuva water supply scheme	15.60

VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY

The Bhal areas of the Bhavnagar State suffered from acute shortage of water. A committee under the chairmanship of the Assistant Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, was appointed to work out a scheme for providing water to every village in this area. Pursuant to its recommendations large sums of money were spent for providing the villages with tanks and *avedas* for cattle in 1930. In 1941-42 a hume pipe pressure main was laid for 18 miles from Khodiyar tank to Sanes to connect nine villages of the Bhal suffering from scarcity of potable water.

After the formation of the State of Saurashtra, intensive efforts were made to overcome the difficulty of drinking water in rural areas. The precarious nature of rains and peculiar condition of sub-soil in areas like the Bhal made the problem of water supply more acute. In the First Five Year Plan the Government of Saurashtra endeavoured to solve the problem of water supply in villages of the Bhal area by laying out pipe lines from safe sources. During the Second Five Year Plan schemes for the supply of water to Kerala and Moldi villages of Savarkundla taluka, six villages round about Ratanpur and villages of Khadkala group were undertaken.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Besides education, medical and public health services reviewed in the preceding chapters, other social services such as labour welfare, prohibition, advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes, etc., will be examined in this Chapter.

LABOUR WELFARE

Prior to the formation of the State of Saurashtra, Bhavnagar State had made some efforts in the sphere of labour welfare. The State had a small independent Labour Department and had provided the legal framework in the form of following enactments on the lines of British Indian Legislation which protected the interests of both the parties, employers and employees in an equitable manner.

1 Workmen's Compensation Act
2 Maternity Benefit Act, and
3 Trade Disputes Act

Other States had made no such provision. It was, therefore, but natural that the State of Saurashtra should apply itself to the task of upliftment of working classes immediately on integration. The first important step in this direction was the enactment of uniform labour legislation, which consisted of (1) The Factories Act, (2) Shops and Establishments Act, (3) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Adaptation), (4) Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, (5) Minimum Wages Act and (6) Workmen's Compensation Act.

The labour welfare activities broadly fall within two groups, viz., (1) Legislation and (2) Workers' Welfare.

(1) LEGISLATION

The following labour laws are in force in Gujarat.

1 Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923
2 Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926
3 Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929
4 Payment of Wages Act, 1926
5 Payment of Wages Act, 1929
6 The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925 (so far as Section 9 of the Act is concerned)
7 Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946
8 Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946

9 Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
10 Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948
11 Factories Act, 1948
12 Minimum Wages Act, 1948
13 Employees' State Insurance Act, 1952
14 Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1961
15 Gujarat Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1961
16 Working Journalists (conditions of service and miscellaneous provisions) Act, 1955
17 Motor Transport Workers' Act, 1961
18 The Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Act, 1962
19 The Bombay Labour Welfare Fund (Gujarat Amendment) Act, 1962
20 The Maternity Benefit (Gujarat Amendment) Act, 1963

These enactments have brought about important changes in the sphere of industrial relations, wages and social security. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is the main piece of legislation designed to maintain industrial peace by solving the problems of labour. The administrative machinery for the district is comprised of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Rajkot, who functions as a conciliation officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and for Saurashtra and Kutch areas conciliator under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946. The Labour Officer for the Bhavnagar District ensures that the provisions of (1) Minimum Wages Act, (2) Motor Transport Workers Act, and (3) Working Journalists Act, are properly enforced. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 was also applied to the district by the former Saurashtra Government. It provides for the settlement of disputes through conciliation, adjudication or arbitration. The results achieved under this Act so far as this disrict is concerned will be evident from the statement given below.

	Total number of cases		No. of cases decided		No. of cases pending	
	1961	1964	1961	1964	1961	1964
1 Adjudication	19	71	5	27	14	44
2 Complaints	3	14	2	8	1	6
3 Applications under section 33	2	11	1	3	1	8

Source :

Commissioner of Labour, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

Wages and social security are the other important spheres where labour legislation has made notable contribution towards the welfare of working classes. Prior to integration, wage fixation, except in the State of Bhavnagar, was left more or less to the hazard of unequal bargaining between the employers and individual workers. Trade Union organisations being weak collective bargaining was unknown. After the formation of Saurashtra

State, a new element was introduced for the first time in the realm of wage settlement. Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which introduced the principle of statutory fixation of minimum wages, was applied to the following industries: (1) rice, flour and *dal* mills; (2) tobacco manufacturing and *bidi* making; (3) oil mills; (4) road construction and building operations and (5) stone-breaking and stone crushing. More recently the fixation of wages has been left to wage boards constituted on a tripartite basis. Major industries from the district, which are covered by the wage boards are (1) textiles, (2) rubber, and (3) ports and docks. The details about the application of this Act are already discussed in Chapter V—Industries.

Social Security

Workmen's Compensation Act—The Saurashtra Workmen's Compensation Ordinance promulgated on 19th July, 1948 was the first important piece of social insurance legislation in Saurashtra. The ordinance was based upon the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 as amended up to 1946. The district is at present governed by this Act which is administered through the Labour Commissioner appointed for the entire State. The following statement gives the number of cases decided by the Commissioner in the district.

Year		Non-contested cases	Contested cases	Agreements
1961	..	6	31	98
1962	..	5	21	96

Source :

Annual Reports on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Gujarat State)

It will appear from the above statement that agreements were arrived at in respect of a large number of cases. It also indicates that quite a large number of workers were benefited under the Act.

Provident Fund Act—In 1962, this Act covered 19 industries employing 11,322 workers.

Maternity Benefit Act—The Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929 was adapted by an ordinance on 20th August, 1948. The Act prohibits the employment of women in factories during four weeks following the day of delivery of a child and also provides for payment of maternity benefit for a fixed period.

(2) WORKERS' WELFARE

Labour Welfare Centres—Among the positive measures adopted in recent years is the starting of labour welfare centres. These centres provide recreational and instructional facilities and assist the workers in becoming responsible citizens of the State. There are six such centres in the district.

The following statement gives the details of the location of 2 specially equipped 'C' type labour welfare centres and 4 'D' type labour welfare centres conducted at Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Nari, Botad and Sihor.

Sl. No.	Name of town	No. of specially equipped 'C' type labour welfare centres	No. of 'D' type labour welfare centres	Total
1	Bhavnagar ..	1	1	2
2	Mahuva ..	1	..	1
3	Nari .	.	1	1
4	Botad	..	1	1
5	Sihor .		1	1
	Total	2	4	6

Source :

Commissioner of Labour, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad

The 'C' type of labour welfare centres include the following amenities, viz., (1) nursery school, (2) indoor and outdoor games, (3) reading-room and library, (4) radio and musical entertainment, (5) adult and social education, (6) cinema, (7) sewing, knitting and embroidery class, (8) women's literacy class, (9) women's welfare activities, (10) welfare and anti-drink propaganda and (11) welfare and social activities of a corporate nature such as (i) celebration of festivals and important days, (ii) physical culture shows, (iii) *bhajans*, (iv) musical parties, (v) exhibitions, (vi) dramatic performances, (vii) games, competitions, (viii) *garba*, *ras*, (ix) magic shows, (x) debating societies, (xi) labour training class, (xii) trips, travels and excursions; and (xiii) lectures, etc.

The 'D' type labour welfare centres conduct welfare and social activities of a corporate nature such as celebration of festivals and important days. However, on account of demand from the workers for additional activities, the facilities for indoor games, reading room and library, radio and musical entertainment have also been provided at these centres.

Industrial Housing

Under the industrial housing scheme formulated by the Government of Saurashtra 500 tenements at Bhavnagar and 100 tenements at Mahuva were constructed at a total cost of Rs. 1,702,227 during the First Five Year Plan. In the Second Plan period 214 tenements were constructed at Bhavnagar at a total cost of Rs. 686,181. Further details of the scheme are given in Chapter V—Industries.

Prohibition

Prohibition in the former Bhavnagar State was introduced in the year 1919, when 42 shops were engaged in the purchase and sale of liquors in the State. 34 shops dealing in purchase and sale of liquor were banned in the first instance. The remaining 8 shops located in Bhavnagar, Mahuva, Nana-Kotda, Hathab, Chanch, Sartanpar, Umrala, and Limbala were permitted to sell liquor to permit holders for a period of two and a half years. After

the expiry of this period, these shops were also closed. However, the sale of foreign liquor continued in the State. This also was banned completely in 1927-28. In Palitana State prohibition existed since 1915.

After the formation of the State of Saurashtra, its government adapted and applied the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 which was also in force in the bilingual Bombay State on its merger in 1956. On the formation of unilingual State of Gujarat the policy of prohibition hitherto in force has been continued.

Objectives of Prohibition Laws

The legislation in respect of prohibition is brought into force primarily with a view to eliminate the drink and drug vice from the State. It also aims at raising the standard of living of the people, besides rehabilitating the home life of the addicts. The most obvious and outstanding effect of prohibition is the release of the purchasing power in the hands of people who needed it the most at a time when economic condition was far from satisfactory.

The State of Gujarat, of which Bhavnagar district forms a part, is governed by the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. The import, export, transport, purchase, possession, use, consumption and manufacture of intoxicants are prohibited in the State except under a licence or a permit. The Act, however, provides for the grant of permits for the possession, use and consumption of foreign liquor by foreigners, tourists, privileged personages, visitors and those requiring liquor either for medical purposes in an emergency or on grounds of health. The manufacture, sale, consumption, etc., of country spirit is not permitted except for sacramental purposes. Permits for sacramental wine required by Jews, Christians and Parsis for religious purposes are granted in accordance with the provisions of the rules made in this behalf. Licences and permits for the possession and use of alcohol for industrial, educational, medical and research purposes, are also granted.

The work of enforcement of prohibition is entrusted to the police in the district in addition to their other normal duties. After the introduction of Panchayats Act, 1961 in the State, government has constituted District Prohibition Committee to advise the district administration in the matter of grant of licences under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. The work relating to prohibition propaganda has been transferred to the Panchayats. The special welfare committees of the District Panchayat and Taluka Panchayats and the educational committees of the village Panchayats now look after prohibition propaganda within their respective jurisdictions. This committee also co-ordinates the activities of Panchayats, Prohibition and Police Departments.

To provide healthy recreational activities like outdoor and indoor games, entertainment programmes, reading rooms, etc., two *sanskar kendras* were run by the Prohibition and Excise Department in addition to one by the village panchayat, for the benefit of addicts.

Number of Prohibition Offences in the District

The number of offences detected in the district during the year 1963-64 was 1,157 of which 1,129 related to liquor, 16 to hempdrugs and 12 to illegal import of opium. The total number of convictions during the year numbered 153.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBES

Backward Classes may from the viewpoint of their special problems be distinguished into two classes, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Prior to the formation of the State of Saurashtra, the Scheduled Classes suffered from many disabilities. The untouchability complex prevailed among caste Hindus to a large extent inspite of the efforts of social and political workers. In Sihor, an important town in the district, the Harijans were prevented from entering the court premises. The social disabilities were accompanied by wide economic and cultural disabilities, each reinforcing the other. Opportunities for betterment were practically denied. Other Backward Classes did not suffer from the same acute disabilities but were economically and culturally backward.

Immediately on coming into power the Saurashtra Government issued the Saurashtra Harijan (Removal of Social Disabilities) Ordinance in 1948, whereunder all government educational institutions and public places such as hotels, theatres, public wells and conveyances were thrown open to Harijans. The original ordinance applied only to seven castes. In order to make it applicable to the fifteen castes classed as Scheduled in Saurashtra by the Government of India, the Saurashtra Government modified the ordinance in 1950-51.[1] But the removal of the social and economic backwardness, both of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, required a far reaching and comprehensive programme of development rather than social legislation. A Backward Class Investigation Committee was, therefore, appointed in March, 1948 consisting of nine members under the chairmanship of Shri Chhaganlal Joshi. The committee submitted its report in May, 1950. It divided Backward Classes into three groups, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities. The former two were in accordance with the policy laid down by the Government of India, whereas the third was a special classification, devised in view of the special conditions prevalent in Saurashtra.

Following are the castes classified as Scheduled under the President's Order.

(1) Bawa (Dhedh) or Dhedh-Sadhu, (2) Bhangi or Rukhi, (3) Chamadia, (4) Chamar, Nalia or Rohit, (5) Dangashia, (6) Garmatang, (7) Garoda, (8) Hadi, (9) Meghwal, (10) Turi, (11) Turi-Barot or Dhedh-Barot, (12) Vankar, Dhedh or Antyaj.

1. The Bombay Harijan Temple Entry Act, 1947, Untouchability Offences Act of 1955 and Bombay Hindu Places of Public Worship Entry Authorisations Act of 1956 are now in force in the State and the district.

The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are Vankar (including Dhedh or Antyaj) and Chamar (including Nalia or Rohit). The total population of Scheduled Castes in the district according to 1961 Census is 50,534 which forms 4·51 per cent of the total population of the district. The working population accounts for 21,037 persons or 41.63 per cent of their population in Bhavnagar district. Workers in special occupations like (i) tanning and currying of hides and skins and (ii) scavenging number 1,607 (3·18 per cent) and 1,071 (2·12 per cent) respectively of the total population of Scheduled Castes in the district.

The only Scheduled Tribe residing in the district is Siddi which claims 75 or only 0.006 per cent of the total population of the district and 0.003 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes of the State.

Schemes for the Welfare of Backward Classes

It may as well be stated that backward class communities as a rule are benefited by the general development programme of the country. But in view of the handicaps from which they suffer, there has been always a need to supplement the general programmes by special measures for their welfare. With a view to formation and speedy implementation of schemes for the amelioration of the social and economic conditions of the Backward Classes in this district as well as in other districts of Saurashtra region, Government of Saurashtra had constituted a statutory Backward Classes Board. The programmes were implemented by the Board even after the formation of the composite State of Bombay till the year 1959 when it ceased to function. The schemes are now implemented in the district through the agency of the District Social Welfare Officer, who is under the control of the District Development Officer. The schemes for the welfare of the Backward Classes can broadly be classified into measures (a) for educational and cultural uplift, (b) for economic uplift and (c) other ameliorative purposes.

(a) *Educational and Cultural Uplift*

Since education remains the sheet-anchor of the progress of the people, government has all along been giving due consideration to the need for promoting education amongst the Backward Classes. By and large, State assistance consists of payment of tuition fees, examination fees and lump sum stipends for books and scholarships to primary, high school and post-matriculate students.[1] The State also gives grants for the construction of hostels for Backward Class students. The details of the number of Backward Class students benefited and the expenditure incurred in this behalf till 1961 in the district are given below.

		No. of Beneficiaries	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1	Tuition Fees	960	40,289
2	Examination Fees	181	9,145
3	Scholarships	1,000	80,696

Source :

Pragatina Panthe, Bhavnagar Jillo, Pratham Sopan, pp. 147-48

1. Details of these schemes will be found in Chapter XV—Education and Culture.

The number of hostels in the district till 1961 was 8 which received financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 70,393.

The programme of cultural upliftment of the Backward Class population is implemented through the establishment of *sanskar* and *shikshan kendras* opened with a view to spreading literacy and inculcating good manners. Twelve *sanskar kendras* were opened in the district till 1961.

(b) Measures of Economic Uplift

Majority of the Backward Class persons are agriculturists and landless labourers or artisans. Their economic condition can be improved by implementing schemes which have direct bearing on their work. The activities undertaken in the district can broadly be classified into schemes relating to (a) agricultural improvement and (b) training the Backward Classes in crafts and trades.

The schemes for agricultural improvement provide financial assistance for soil conservation measures, minor irrigation, construction of irrigation wells and supply of agricultural implements and compost manure. Till 1961 the expenditure incurred in the district on the above mentioned schemes was Rs. 82,431.

The present schemes of cottage industries aim at training candidates in their respective crafts and providing financial assistance to them. Till 1961 Rs. 14,323 were spent on these schemes in the district.

(c) Other Ameliorative Measures

The programme under this caption relates to health, housing and other schemes. The expenditure incurred on these schemes till 1961 was Rs. 72,796.

RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

Legislative measures have been taken from time to time for the control, etc., of religious and charitable endowments. The trusts in the Bhavnagar State were governed under the Religious and Charitable Act, 1920. The public trusts at present are governed by the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950. The Act provides for the establishment of special machinery for dealing with all matters concerning the administration and management of public trusts, working under the administrative control of the Legal Department. The Act provides for compulsory registration of all public trusts and for the appointment of a Charity Commissioner for the State and Deputy and Assistant Charity Commissioners for regions and sub-regions into which the State is divided for administrative convenience. Bhavnagar district which forms part of the Rajkot region is looked after by the Deputy Commissioner, Rajkot. The total number of trusts registered in the district till 1965 was 1353; Hindu 913, Muslim 192, Parsi one and others 247.

IMPORTANT TRUSTS IN THE DISTRICT

Particulars of some of the important trusts in the district are given below.

Shri Tapachhiya Sheth Shri Jindas Dharmadas Dharmik Trust, Kadamgiri, Palitana

This trust is founded primarily for the purpose of rendering religious services to the followers of Jainism. The trust income is spent on the maintenance of Jain temple situated at Kadamgiri hill, 25 km. away from Palitana, as also for the maintenance of *tirth upashraya*, *gnan bhandar*, *dharmashala*, *bhojanshala* and a guest house. Its annual income in 1965 was Rs. 20,000.

Shri Mota Gopnathji Trust, Mota Gopnath

This trust is founded for religious purposes and maintenance of a temple in Mota Gopnath. The annual income of the trust in 1965 was Rs. 15,046.

Shri Devjibhai Gulam Hussein Dharmada Fund

This trust was founded in 1896. It has many charitable and religious activities. Its income is utilised in giving *nyaz* dinners and substantial help to Saiyeds of *Vohra* community. The annual income of the trust in 1965 was Rs. 17,064.

Parsi Anjuman, Bhavnagar

This trust is founded for the maintenance of *Agiyari Aramgrah* and *Dharmashala*. The annual income of the trust in 1963 was Rs. 10,510.

Gandhi Smriti, Bhavnagar

Established on 28th June, 1951, the trust funds are spent on library and museum emporium and other constructive activities. The income of the trust in 1965 was Rs. 68,078. It has also been entrusted with the running of Shri M. P. Shah Kusht Nivaran Dham, Bhavnagar.

Carmelite Sister's Society, Bhavnagar

The trust is created by the Memorandum of Association dated 22nd August, 1960. The objects of the trust are to impart education, instruction and training to Catholics and non-Catholics by running schools and colleges. The annual income of the trust in 1965 was Rs. 29,343.

Bhavnagar State Funds and Endowments

The former Bhavnagar State had established and encouraged a very healthy tradition of creating Public Endowments by accepting donations from philanthropic persons charitably disposed. These donations were given to the State for specific purposes and were for the most part meant for promoting educational facilities like opening schools, high schools, boarding houses, etc., and provision of medical relief. The State in turn took up the responsibility of running them either from the interest derived or at its own expense. This tradition was honoured by the State itself by creating

various trusts for the good of the people. The two important Funds created by it are (1) the Krishnakumarsinhji Village Improvement Fund called *Shri Krishnakumarsinhji Gram Sudharana Fund* and (2) Cultivators' Amelioration Fund or *Khedut Sankat Nivaran Fund.*

Shri Krishnakumarsinhji Village Improvement (Gram Sudharana) Fund

With a view to effect a total and complete redemption of the peasantry from all outstanding debts, Bhavnagar State had initiated a number of reforms like agricultural debt redemption and other measures so that the farmer may be enabled to begin with a clean slate. The State withdrew its claim over a sum of Rs. 27 lakhs due from the farmers and handed it over to cultivators themselves to be utilised for their own benefit. The Village Improvement Fund of Rs. 27 lakhs thus constituted in 1930 was to be collected gradually in good years and only the interest derived therefrom was to be utilised for specific village improvement works such as scholarships to *khedut* students, construction of school buildings, village roads and public wells, medical relief, libraries, night schools and such other activities in rural areas as may be decided with the approval of the Darbar.

The fund was administered by the Revenue Commissioner of the Bhavnagar State with the help of an advisory committee. By the Saurashtra Government Notification No. TF-391/1950 dated 10th March, 1951, the Collector, Gohilwad District, was appointed administrator of this fund. The fund, which is earmarked for the benefit of 528 *khalsa* villages of the erstwhile Bhavnagar State, had a balance of Rs. 1,760,312 on 31st March, 1965.

Cultivators' Amelioration Fund (Khedut Sankat Nivaran Fund)

In 1912, in commemoration of the birth of Yuvraj Shri Krishnakumarsinhji, Bhavsinhji the then ruler offered to the people a number of concessions, grants and reliefs, one of them being the opening of a Famine Insurance Fund called the *Khedut Sankat Nivaran Fund* with an initial grant of Rs. 20 lakhs from the Darbar. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was contributed at once in cash and the rest was made up in six years by annual payments of Rs. 2½ lakhs each. From the interest accruing out of this fund, Rs. 20,000 were utilised every year in making free grants to cultivators for construction of new wells or making *pucca* wells in place of *kutcha* ones. The balance of interest was allowed to accumulate and the accumulated amount was to be utilized in giving relief to cultivators in famine or lean years. In 1948, according to the Trust deed executed under *Hajur* order No. 27 dated 20th February, 1948 the amount to the credit of the fund was Rs. 3,885,968.

In 1951, after the formation of the State of Saurashtra, the Collector, Gohilwad District, was appointed administrator of this fund and a seven member advisory committee was appointed to advise him in the matter. This fund had a balance of Rs. 2,953,364 on 31st March, 1965.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Public Life

Organised public life as it is understood today is a very recent and modern phenomenon which had no scope for development in the former feudal set-up with a hierarchy of social and economic strata. Even then the public opinion was sufficiently vocal in this district where the Mahajan made itself felt for public good and operated as an effective check on the whims of the ruler. When the democratic influences came to be felt during the early part of the 20th century in the neighbouring areas under British administration, the princely states for the most part remained unaffected. The State of Bhavnagar, however, had developed very healthy tradition of public life by gradual association of the people in the affairs of the State. The progressive policy pursued by the Bhavnagar Darbar in this behalf led first to the establishment of the Praja Pratinidhi Sabha or the People's Representative Assembly and later on the Dhara Sabha or the Legislative Assembly (discussed elsewhere) which culminated in the grant of full responsible government to the people of the State soon after Independence. The constitution and functions of both these bodies are described in Annexures I and II to Chapter II.

Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislatures

In the three general elections of 1952, 1957 and 1962, Bhavnagar district had one parliamentary single member constituency, named Gohilwad in 1952 and 1957, and Bhavnagar in 1962. In the State legislature the district had 13 single member constituencies when the Saurashtra State Legislative Assembly was in existence in 1952. When Saurashtra was merged with Bombay at the time of general election of 1957, this district had 9 single member constituencies in the Bombay State Legislative Assembly. After bifurcation, at the time of the general election in 1962 the district had 8 single member constituencies in the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly. Thus the district has at present (1966), one representative in the Union Parliament (Lok Sabha) and eight representatives in the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly (Dhara Sabha or Vidhan Sabha). The details of the territorial extent of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies are shown below.

Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies.[1]

Sl. No.	Name of Constituency	Extent in terms of Parliamentary / Assembly Constituencies
		A. Parliamentary Constituencies
1	Bhavnagar ..	.. Rajula, Kundla, Mahuva, Palitana, Bhavnagar, Gogha and Talaja
		B. Assembly Constituencies : Territorial extent
1	Kundla ..	.. Kundla taluka
2	Mahuva ..	.. Mahuva taluka (excluding 30 villages included in Talaja constituency)
3	Palitana ..	.. Palitana taluka (excluding 37 villages included in Sihor constituency) and Gariadhar taluka
4	Sihor ..	.. Sihor taluka including 37 villages of Palitana taluka, 16 villages of Gogha mahal and 4 villages of Bhavnagar taluka
5	Gadhada	.. Gadhada taluka and Umrala mahal
6	Botad ..	.. Botad taluka and Vallabhipur mahal
7	Bhavnagar	.. Ward Nos. 1 to 6, 10 to 12, Dock Estates and Bhavnagar Para with Railway colony of Bhavnagar city
8	Gogha ..	.. Bhavnagar taluka (excluding ward Nos. 1 to 6 and 10 to 12, Dock Estates and Bhavnagar para with Railway colony of Bhavnagar city and 4 villages of Bhavnagar taluka included in Sihor constituency) and Gogha mahal (excluding the 16 villages included in Sihor constituency)
9	Talaja ..	.. Talaja taluka and the 30 villages of Mahuva taluka

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The main political parties in the district are Congress, Khedut Sangh, Praja Socialist, Jan Sangh, Janata Parishad, and Swatantra. A study of election results of 1952, 1957 and 1962 will show the relative hold of these political parties in the district. After the attainment of political Independence, the first general election was held in 1952. The system of adult franchise gave equal opportunity to all the citizens above 21 years irrespective of sex and caste to exercise the right to vote. In 1952 elections, there were 7 political parties, viz., Congress, Socialist, Krishak Mazdoor Praja Parishad, Khedut Sangh, Hindu Maha Sabha, Communist and Jan Sangh contesting the elections. Out of 13 seats this district had in the Saurashtra Legislative Assembly, the Congress party secured 12 seats and one went to the Khedut Sangh. The Parliamentary seat was won by the Congress. The strength of the electorate was 436,041 of which 286,560 or 65.71 per cent of total voters exercised their franchise.

In 1957, there was a straight fight between the Congress and the P.S.P. Out of 9 seats in the Bombay Legislative Assembly, 8 were captured by the Congress and one by the P.S.P. In the upper house called the Bombay Legislative Council, Bhavnagar district had three seats, two of them elected by

1. *The Gujarat Government Gazette*, Vol. VII, No. 13, Part IV-C, dated 31st March, 1966

members of the Legislative Assembly and one filled in by a representative of the local authorities. The Parliamentary seat was also retained by the Congress. Of the total of 540,875 voters, 327,488 or 60 per cent exercised their right of voting.

In the general elections of 1962, six political parties contested the elections. These were Congress, P.S.P., Swatantra, Janata Parishad, Jan Sangh, Socialist and Independents. Out of 8 Assembly seats available to the district, the Congress party captured 5 seats, the P.S.P. got 2, and one went to an independent candidate. The Parliamentary seat was secured by the P.S.P. The total strength of the electorate was 510,619 of whom 402,112 voters exercised their franchise—the percentage being 78.75, much higher than in the previous two elections. This shows the growing political consciousness and awareness of the people in the affairs of the State.

Newspapers

Saurashtra Samachar is the only daily newspaper recently started from Bhavnagar and has a fairly wide circulation. Gujarati daily newspapers *Jai-Hind*, *Phoolchhab* and *Nutan Saurashtra* published from Rajkot, *Sandesh*, *Gujarat Samachar*, *Jansatta* and *Prabhat* from Ahmedabad and *Mumbai Samachar*, *Janmabhoomi* and *Janshakti* from Bombay are widely read in this district. Among the English daily newspapers of Bombay delivered by air service every morning, the *Times of India* is very popular. The other dailies in demand are the *Indian Express* and the *Free Press Journal*. *The Economic Times* and the *Financial Express* of Bombay have a limited circulation confined only to Bhavnagar city. Of the three weeklies published from this district *Bhavnagar Samachar* (established in 1940) is the oldest and widely read. A number of periodicals dealing with cultural, literary and other activities published in the district are discussed in Chapter XV—Education and Culture.

Voluntary Social Service Organisations

Origin, Growth and Direction

The humanitarian urge to organise voluntary associations to meet the needs of social and cultural upliftment of the people is innate. This urge has found greater scope of expression after Independence as a result of popular awakening and State encouragment in various fields of public activity. Bhavnagar district has a number of voluntary institutions which are serving the people in a variety of ways. They not only complement and supplement governmental efforts in many a field but also cover fields of ameliorative service which government cannot render and which is the legitimate sphere of work of social organisations. These institutions have played an important part in the educational, social and cultural development of the district. Many of them were pioneers in particular spheres of social activity, which, on account of their constant and commendable service, have won government recognition, assistance and guidance.

The existence of a large number of voluntary social service organisations in a city gives a kind of richness to its institutional life which mere governmental action can hardly impart. Government have recognized this basic fact and encouraged and utilised these agencies for the greater effectiveness of their own efforts. State and voluntary social service organisations have been thus playing a mutually helpful part in the development of the district. Social service, youth's organisations, physical culture, uplift of women, child welfare, etc., are the important spheres of social work wherein numerous organisations have participated to enrich the public life in this district. Important organisations functioning in the district are reviewed below.

Women's Organisations

Anand Vatika Bhagini Mandal, Bhavnagar—Originally a branch of the Bhavnagar Mahila Mandal, it was started in rented premises in 1937. On 15th September, 1947, it changed its name to Shri Anand Vatika Bhagini Mandal when it was shifted to a new building specially constructed for it by a benevolent donor. The institution aims at the welfare of women and their uplift and conducts various activities including a sewing class, a Balwadi and a health centre. The sewing class was started in 1937 with a view to teach some useful crafts to women and thereby enable them to become self-dependent. About 40 women take benefit of the class every year. In 1950 the Mandal started a Balmandir with a view to give education to children on the Montessori system. About 50 to 60 children take advantage of the Balmandir every year. The health centre was started in 1956.

Bhavnagar Stree Kelavani Mandal, Bhavnagar—The "Bhavnagar Stree Kelavani Mandal" is a well-known institution organised in 1925 through the efforts of Shri Balwantray Mehta, the late Chief Minister of Gujarat, assisted by a band of workers like Shri Amritlal Dani devoted to the cause of women's education. Its aims and objects are promotion of female education, their welfare and uplift. To fulfil these aims it conducts classes for teaching music, sewing, typewriting, embroidery, drawing, home science, physiology, hygiene, etc. The institution has a vast playground with necessary equipment.

The Mandal is a registered body and has three trusts under it : (i) Mukta Laxmi Education Trust with a total fund of Rs. 50,000; (ii) Shri Bhavnagar Stree Kelavani Mandal Trust with a fund of Rs. 74,000 and (iii) Shri Danibhai Smarak Trust with a fund of Rs. 4,000. From the interest of the funds, scholarships are given to female students studying in higher classes.

The Mandal conducts the following institutions : (i) Bhavnagar Mahila Vidyalaya, started in 1925 with a view to provide secondary education to women; (ii) Bhavnagar Kumari Mandal started in 1932 imparts education and practical training to girls; (iii) Danibhai Kanya Chhatralaya (Ladies Hostel) started in 1946 with a view to provide boarding and lodging facilities to girl students coming from outside Bhavnagar. In the beginning the insti-

tution was incurring a recurrent loss which was made good by the Bhavnagar Stree Kelavani Mandal. In 1963-64 there were 82 students staying in the hostel which is housed in a rented building and has only a limited accommodation; (iv) Bhavnagar Mahila College was established in 1948 with a view to give higher education to women; the college conducts classes up to graduation stage in Arts. In 1963-64, 300 students were studying in the college; (v) Bhavnagar Balmandir was established in 1959 to provide pre-primary education on Montessori system.

The other institutions managed by the Bhavnagar Stree Kelavani Mandal are sewing and typing classes, a *bal kridangan* and a library, the Narmadabai Desai Training School, the Majiraj Girls High School and the Samaj Kelavani Kendra.

Bhavnagar Mahila Mandal, Bhavnagar—Established in 1938, Bhavnagar Mahila Mandal is a very outstanding and well-known institution which works for the uplift and welfare of women and helps them by providing training in various fields. It conducts classes in embroidery, knitting, spinning and weaving. In educational field it runs classes of vernacular final, *Rashtrabhasha*, type writing, music, sewing and an adult education class for aged women. More than a hundred women benefit by these classes every year. Occasionally, it arranges lectures, tours and film shows to enlighten the members on problems of national development. The institution runs social welfare centres in ten villages of Bhavnagar and Palitana talukas. It helps in small savings campaign, national defence fund and rural welfare activities. It also conducts an *Annapurna* canteen in the city which provides wholesome food at reasonable rates. It had nearly 1,100 members in 1964.

Mahila Mandal, Savarkundla—Established in 1955, the Mandal conducts many activities for the welfare of women such as classes in spinning, sewing, embroidery and handicrafts, besides classes on English and Hindi. It also runs adult education classes for women of Backward Classes, arranges programmes of music, *ras* and *garba* dances, and organises study circles and lectures by eminent persons once a week. It runs a *chhatralaya* and a library. It had over 150 members in 1964.

Tapibai Ranchhoddas Gandhi Vikas Grih, Bhavnagar—The institution was established in the early forties and reorganised and renamed in 1960 as 'Tapibai Ranchhoddas Gandhi Vikas Grih' after Shrimati Tapibai, wife of late Shri Ranchhoddas Gandhi who was the founder of this institution. The main objectives of the institution are to provide food, clothing, shelter and education to those women who are rendered helpless, to solve their social and economic problems and ultimately make them self-dependent. No discrimination of caste, creed or religion is encouraged in the institution.

It runs a *chhatralaya* for the inmates, an adult education class and a Balmandir. It also conducts sewing, spinning, weaving and embroidery

classes. The institution is recognised by the government as an observation home for girls. Juvenile delinquents are admitted in this *vikas grih* so that they can be reformed and recognised as fit persons.

Vanita Vishram, Bhavnagar—Established in 1926 by the New Jehangir Vakil Mills Ltd., Bhavnagar, the institution provides facilities for education to Hindu widows, destitute and distressed women and girls and imparts training in cottage industries and handicrafts such as spinning, weaving, sewing, knitting and embroidery. For the establishment of this institution a donation of Rs. 50,000 was given by Shri Mangaldas Jesangbhai, the agent of the Mills. It has its own building worth over two lakhs of rupees constructed with the help of the Bhavnagar State. It had 56 inmates in 1964.

Vanita Vikas Mandal, Bhavnagar—The Mandal was established in 1951 with the main aim of imparting education to womenfolk and providing earning opportunities to them. The institution is registered under the Trusts Act and is managed by a managing committee of three trustees. It conducts a Balmandir, a sewing and knitting class and a *kridangan.*

Youth's Organisations

Adarsh Yuvak Sangh, Bhavnagar—Shri Adarsh Yuvak Sangh was established in 1952. It imparts training in social services and gives physical education to children and young people. The institution manages the Chanchalba Library and Reading Room. It has its own radio set and a library which was started in 1958 with the help of the Central Social Welfare Board.

Bajrang Vyayam Shala and Sanskar Kendra, Bhavnagar—Shri Bajrang Vyayam Shala and Sanskar Kendra was started in the year 1938. It conducts training classes in physical education. The institution is working in the backward areas of the city. Its members are mostly labourers working in the port, factories or in the railway.

Darbargadh Ward Navjavan Sangh, Bhavnagar—Darbargadh Ward Navjavan Sangh was established in 1954 with the object of instilling a sense of social service and co-operation among children and citizens of Bhavnagar. It admits members without any distinction of caste or creed. Among the activities undertaken by the institution may be mentioned training in embroidery and knitting to women, supply of milk to children, medical relief, supply of books to needy students, donations of blood, etc. Typewriting and music classes are also conducted. It brings out a monthly magazine *Dhoopsali*. It receives grants from the government and the municipality.

Ganesh Krida Mandal, Bhavnagar—Ganesh Krida Mandal, the first of its kind in Bhavnagar was established by Shri Ganesh Vaishampayan in 1920. Shri Vaishampayan started giving regular physical training to a couple of young boys near the Peile Garden where the building for the Krida Mandal was subsequently constructed. The work thus started by him received more impetus and popularity when Sardar Prithvisingh alias Swami Rao came to

Bhavnagar and associated himself with its activities in early tweaties. By untiring devotion to his work he impressed the younger generation and cultivated in them interest in physical culture. His other associates who made significant and noteworthy contribution to the development of *vyayam* activities in Bhavnagar were Dr. Purushottam Kane and Shri Bahauddinbhai. The Ganesh Krida Mandal which was started with the efforts of such a good team of workers is the oldest *vyayam shala* in Bhavnagar which runs a gymnasium, a Balmandir, a swimming bath, a library and a reading room besides organising study tours, exhibitions, *anand bazars*, etc.

Krishnanagar Sanskar Mandal, Bhavnagar—The Mandal was established in 1950. Its aims and objects are to promote and cultivate civic sense among the younger generation and to impart to them physical, cultural and social education. It has a *bal kridangan* where a good number of children gather everyday. It provides facilities for sports, maintains a library and organises trips and other educational programmes for its members. It had organised in October, 1961, a health exhibition which was visited by about 15,000 persons.

Krishnanagar Seva Mandal, Bhavnagar—To provide social and cultural education to the people of Bhavnagar the Mandal was established in 1952. It conducts sewing and embroidery classes, runs a children's library and holds *anand bazars* on suitable occasions.

Mangal Vihar, Bhavnagar—This institution was established in 1947 with a view to conduct training centres in cultural and physical education for the young. It maintains a small library and a reading room for the members and conducts a primary and a pre-primary school, a hostel for the students and a *pathshala*. The institution also provides medical facilities to its members. The primary school started in 1959 had about 200 students in 1964. The pre-primary kindergarten school was started in 1963. The institution also organises a short term course in physical training during summer vacation when about 400 students receive regular training.

Rachnatmak Mandal, Palitana—The Mandal was established in 1955 with a view to propagate the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi in the sphere of education among the masses. The Mandal accepts *khadi* workers and weavers as its members. It runs a public library, arranges exhibitions and study centres and conducts a *mahila mandal*, a kindergarten school and a primary school.

Shishu Vihar, Bhavnagar—Shishu Vihar, one of the well-known institutions in Bhavnagar, was established in 1939. Its activities aim at an all round development of the youngsters. It conducts : (1) Jyoti Mandal which is managed by ladies only and arranges lectures on various topics and programmes such as *ras*, *garba*, etc. It also conducts classes in embroidery, sewing, child welfare, etc., (2) Monghiben Balmandir run on Montessori system; (3) Navjivan Bal Shala, a primary school in ideal surroundings; (4) Shram Mandir giving technical and physical training to the young and (5) a high

school. The publictiy section of Shishu Vihar publishes literature for children in simple language. It has a library named Gokhale Gyan Mandir which is equipped with valuable and useful collection of books. It has a fully equipped stage and an open air theatre. Shishu Vihar conducts a Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Unit and has a branch of St. John's Ambulance imparting training in first aid, home treatment for the sick, *rakta-dan* (blood donation), etc. It gives aid to poor patients by providing free medicine, injections, etc. It supplies magazines, newspapers and periodicals to prisoners in jail and to indoor patients in hospitals.

Vadva Vyuyam Mandir, Bhavnagar—Established in 1930, the manifold activities of the institute include a library, a reading room, a Balmandir, a primary school, a sewing class, a music class, a swimming bath, a physical education class, etc. It arranges a number of sports programmes every year. The institute has its own building and a playground.

Vatsalya Dham, Malpara—The institution of Vatsalya Dham was established in 1952 with the main object of propagating the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi in rural areas. It arranges study tours, lectures, exhibitions, etc., and helps the villagers to understand the dignity of labour, self reliance and education. It runs a Balmandir and a lokshala in Malpara, a village in Gadhada mahal.

Other Organisations

Nandkunvarba Anath Balashram, Bhavnagar—The Ashram was established in 1918 by the late Maharaja Bhavsinhji of Bhavnagar with a view to give shelter to orphans belonging to any caste or creed. A Balmandir has been recently started with a view to give education to children on Montessori system. Its activities include training classes in handicrafts, spinning and weaving, singing, dancing, etc.

Thakkar Bapa Sarvajanik Kumar Chhatralaya, Bhavnagar—This institution was established in 1924 by the efforts of Shri Balwantray Mehta, the late Chief Minister of Gujarat who was also a well-known social worker of Bhavnagar. It was originally known as Thakkar Bapa Harijan Ashram so named after the veteran social worker Shri Amritlal Vithaldas Thakkar popularly known as Thakkar Bapa who had devoted his life to the cause of the uplift of the downtrodden Harijans and the tribal people in particular all over India. It was then open only for the Harijan students. On 1st October, 1951, the ashram was thrown open to the student community as a whole and was renamed as Thakkar Bapa Sarvajanik Kumar Chhatralaya. The Chhatralaya accommodates about 70 inmates. It has a reading room, a library and a playground where games like foot-ball, hockey, volley-ball, etc., are played. The Chhatralaya is at present managed by Shri Gandhi Smriti Trust.

Besides these voluntary organisations functioning in this district there is a number of other organisations of national or international repute which are

established elsewhere but have their branches in the city of Bhavnagar. These include Bharat Sevak Samaj, Indian Red Cross Society, the Lions' Club, the Rotary Club and the Theosophical Society. Their aims, objectives and programmes are too well-known to need any mention here. Bhavnagar city has a number of cricket clubs and gymkhanas like Bhavsinhji Cricket Club, Krishnanagar Cricket Club, Youngster's Cricket Association, Railway Gymkhana, National Cricket Club, etc., in addition to the cricket and sports, clubs attached to various high schools and colleges. There are two Boys' Scouts organisations in the city, one conducted by the Fatima Convent School and the other by Shishu Vihar.

Organised social service by concerted public efforts is a recent phenomenon closely associated with democratic forms of government promising equal status and opportunities to all sections of society. The field of social service is one where State efforts must be supplemented by close and intensive public co-operation to ensure quick results in the working of various schemes sponsored by government. The welfare of the handicapped and disadvantageous sections of society like women, children, the illiterate, the diseased, the disabled and the backward strata of society has been engaging increasing attention of the State and the people in recent times. Public spirited persons in all walks of life are anxious to contribute their mite to alleviate human sufferings and wants and promote moral and material well-being of the people. There has been a growing consciousness and desire among them to improve the lot of their fellowmen by organising voluntary social organisation to raise them in the social and economic scale. Such organiastions did not exist in the past on any extensive scale, as the felt needs of the people were few and far between and could be satisfied with individual acts of rharity and philanthropy, which took the shape of digging wells, building step-wells, construction of *dharmashalas*, temples and the like. Bhavnagar district has been quick to feel the pulse of the time and had organised a number of social service organisations even before Independence. Educational institutions, relief of the oppressed, amelioration of the condition of women, institutions for the handicapped, welfare centres, and provision of social amenities and cultural needs of the people are some of the notable forms of social service now undertaken in different parts of the State.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Abbreviations

P = Persons	M = Males	F = Females
V. P. = Village Panchayat	N. P. = Nagar Panchayat	Mu. = Municipality

Adhewada—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 1,375—M. 707; F. 668); V.P.

Situated on the northern bank of the river Maleshri or Maleshwari, Adhewada is about 5 km. south of Bhavnagar and is a railway station on the Bhavnagar-Mahuva narrow gauge section of the Western Railway.

The temple of the Janjadia Hanuman with the *Guru Chelani Paduka* is considered as one of the five minor sacred shrines for pilgrims to visit on their way to Somnath, the order being Adhewada, Nishkalank or Naklang Mahadev near Hathab, Nana Gopnath, Mota Gopnath, and the temple of Lakshmi-Narayan at Pipavav, now in Rajula mahal of Amreli district.

The present Sir Takhtsinhji Leper Asylum and Infirmary at Adhewada was started in A.D. 1900 by Bhavsinhji II in memory of his father, Takhtsinhji, to treat the leper patients as also the infirm. It was managed by the State Government. This institution has, however, been shifted to Bhavnagar since 1955 when late Shri Meghji Pethraj Shah gave a generous donation and is now known as M. P. Shah Kusht Nivaran Kendra.

Alang—Talaja Taluka (P. 832—M. 433; F. 399)

Alang and Manar, belonging to Talaja taluka, are two separate villages situated on the north and the south banks of the Manar river respectively, and only a mile from the sea. Close to the sea is a shrine of Nana Gopnath or little Gopnath. The river Manar is said to have been the boundary of the old Vaja Kingdom. Manar is the birthplace of Rawal Shri Takhtsinhji, the famous ruler of Bhavnagar. The climate of the place is very pleasant in hot weather. Alang is mentioned among the Sorath roadsteads (*Barahs*) in the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* and Manar is mentioned as a port in the *Dastur-al-Amal* or the Revenue handbook.

Amritvel—Mahuva Taluka (P. 758—M. 376; F. 382); V.P.

Amritvel, which lies on north latitude 21° and east longitude 71° 40′, is about 10 km. north-east of Mahuva and is a railway station on the Dhasa-Kundla-Mahuva metre gauge section of the Western Railway.

It was mainly famous for having been a possession of a certain Bukhari Syed named Anvar Shah. This Syed had, in his employ, a Sidi named Balal who became enamoured of a beautiful Brahmin woman who was drawing water at the Nishania well originally called Nakvasa. He insulted her modesty and on her husband remonstrating, the Sidi killed him. The Brahmin woman then became a *sati* and her *palio* or memorial stone stands up to this day close to the village with the date Samvat 1042 (986 A.D.) on the tenth of the bright half of Bhadrapad, Saturday. But to avenge this cruel wrong, the Valas of Junasavar attacked the village at night and killed both the Sidi and the Syed and burnt the village. Later on the Khumans repopulated the village in the fifteenth century and gave it the name Amritvel.

Ayavej—Palitana Taluka (P. 1,430—M. 713; F. 717); V.P.

Situated at a distance of about 21 km. from Palitana, Ayavej lies on north latitude 21° 15′ and east longitude 71° 45′ and is an ancient village famous for the temple of Khodiyar Mata.

History says that Ra Navaghan I, was brought here by his nurse while he was an infant and when Junagadh was attacked and Ra Dyas slain by the Raja of Anhilvada Patan. The river Shetrunji flows about 2 km. to the north of this village. It was one of the principal seats of Sarvaiya Rajputs.

Bagdana—Mahuva Taluka (P. 2,123—M. 1,092; F. 1,031); V.P.

Bagdana, which lies on north latitude 21° 15′ and east longitude 71° 50′, is at a distance of about 60 km. from Bhavnagar. The railway station nearest to Bagdana is located at Longdi.

There is a *kund* near Bagdana called the Bagdalav Kund after a *rishi* named Bagdalav. Three small rivers unite near this place. At the point of their confluence there is a temple called the Bagdaleshwar. The Bagad river. which flows past Datha, rises near Bagdana.

Bhadrod—Mahuva Taluka (P. 3,429—M. 1,737; F. 1,992); V.P.

Situated on the western bank of the Bhadrodi river and lying on north latitude 21° 05′ and east longitude 71° 45′, Bhadrod is 6 km. north-east of Mahuva and 82 km. south-west of Bhavnagar. It is a railway station on the Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva narrow gauge railway line.

A legend told about this place is that Rukmi or Rukmaiyo, brother of Rukmini, overtook Shri Krishna when the latter was carrying off his (Rukmi's) sister (Rukmini). A battle was fought in which Rukmaiyo was defeated and taken prisoner. He was released only after Shri Krishna had contemptuously caused his moustache and whiskers and the hair of his head to be shaved. As Rukmaiyo had solemnly sworn never to return to Kundanpur unless victorious and unless he should imprison Krishna and bring back his sister Rukmini, he was much perplexed about his future course of action as he had not only

been defeated but also disgraced. He finally resolved to reside near the site of the battle and built there a small temple of Mahadev which he named Bhadreshwar. Slowly a village rose there. It was first called Bhadranagar later on corrupted into Bhadrod. When the Valas were forced to leave Talaja by the Muhammadans in the time of Selait Vala (about 1544 A.D.), they retired to Bhadrod and remained there for some time. During their rule, Gundala, situated between Nikol and Kalsar, was the port of Bhadrod. It is now a waste and there stands only a deserted temple of Hanuman on the old site. The Khasias under Vijo and Misri conquered Mahuva and Bhadrod in about 1744 A.D. from the Valas, and Misri Khasia established himself at Bhadrod while Vijo Khasia established himself at Mahuva. There the Khasias remained till 1784 A.D., when they were conquered by Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar State. When the Valas reigned at Talaja, Bhadrod belonged to them. Uga Vala of this line was a favourite local hero and was said to have rescued Ra Kavat of Junagadh when the latter was confined in a cage at the Shial Island by Anant Chavdo. Uga Vala, who was Ra Kavat's sister's son, had once boasted that he was not dependent on Junagadh for assistance. Therefore, when Ra Kavat was in confinement in the Shial Island, he sent the following two verses to Uga Vala.

"Take your bow in your hand,
So that the crow may not sit on the branch;
If you cannot clap hands with one palm,
Then clap hands O Uga, with both palms,
The days pass with difficulty,
And an hour seems like a month,
Waiting for you the Vala,
I have wept out my eyes, O Uga."

Uga Vala went to the Shial Island, slew the garrison and freed Ra Kavat. It is said that when he forced his way in the Chavda's palace and was seeking Anant, Anant's wife met him and besought him to spare her husband's life in the following stanza.

"You have slain seven hundred heroes,
And killed five hundred Pathans;
But if you slay Anant, who alone remains, O Uga,
Then let there be Ebhal Vala's oath on you."

Thus adjured Uga Vala spared Anant's life and released all kings whom Anant had imprisoned. He subsequently was slain by Ra Kavat in revenge for a fancied insult at the time of the latter's liberation. Four silver coins of the Greek Bactrian monarch Apollodotus were found at Bhadrod and, strangely enough, one was found at Dhank, another ancient Vala settlement.

Bhamodra Mota—Kundla Taluka (P. 1,631—M. 843; F. 788); V.P.

Situated on north latitude 21° 25′ and east longitude 71° 15′, Bhamodra Mota lies about 29 km. east of Kundla. The village was famous formerly

for the iron works and the steel produced was used in the making of sword blades then styled as being of 'Bhamodra ore'. It is said that in imperial times the *thanadar* of Palitana conquered it, but the Khumans of Kundla reconquered the same on the collapse of the Moghul rule. Afterwards it fell under Bhavnagar regime along with the rest of Kundla.

Some coins of ancient times were reported to have been found at Bhamodra; amongst these was one of Apollodotus, and others of the Kshatrapa, Gupta and Valabhi kings. To the south of the village is a large tank, of which the northern bank alone has been built with masonry and appears to be of some antiquity. About 3 km. south of Bhamodra is a small cave containing a symbol of Mahadev called the Kedarnath. There is a small *kund* or reservoir near the cave called the Kedar Kund. A fair is held in the month of Shravan (August) in honour of Kedarnath Mahadev.

Bhandaria—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 2,879—M. 1,518; F. 1,361); V. P.

Bhandaria is located on the north latitude 21° 25′ and east longitude 71° 35′. It is situated on the river Maleshwari and is a station on the Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva narrow gauge section of the Western Railway.

It is famous for its stone, a kind of laterite. A very fine bridge of this stone has been constructed across the Maleshwari river at Bhandaria itself, which is on the high road from Bhavnagar to Mahuva. The neighbouring hills, a branch of the Khokhra range, are called the Malnath hills, named after the templ which lies in one of their gorges and is called the Malnath Mahadev. This temple has a fine *kund*, or reservoir of water, close to it. The names of the principal hills near Bhandaria are the Kalvira, the Rojmal, the Bhinmal, the Kan-phata and the Kurma.

Bhavnagar—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 176,473-M. 92,085; F. 84,388); Mu.

Situated at the head of the Gulf of Cambay on 21° 46′ north latitude and 72° 11′ east longitude, Bhavnagar was the capital of the former Bhavnagar State and is now the headquarters of the district of that name. The city has returned a total population of 176,473 persons at the 1961 Census which according to its present area of 20·58 sq. miles gives it a density of 8,575 persons per sq. mile. Literates accounted for 86,821 persons or 49·14 per cent—males 55,338, females 31,483. The city population according to religion was distributed into Hindus 142,093 (80·50 per cent), Muslims 22,213 (12·59 per cent), Jains 11,126 (6·30 per cent), Christians 716, Sikhs 132, Buddhist 1 and persons following other religions and persuasions 192.

Bhavnagar is a terminus station on the Surendranagar–Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad–Bhavnagar metre gauge sections of the Western Railway. From here also emanates a narrow gauge railway line connecting Bhavnagar with Mahuva *via* Talaja. There is a fine aerodrome constructed as far back as 1938 and the nationalised Indian Air Lines Corporation maintains an air

link with Bombay by operating a daily air service. State highway from Bhavnagar to Rajkot and major district roads link it with many important areas around. Bhavnagar is an excellent intermediate port from where a flourishing trade is carried on. It serves a vast hinterland which includes Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and the Punjab. Bhavnagar Borough Municipality, the oldest in Saurashtra and established in the year 1872 during the State's regime, looks after the civic affairs of the city.

Location

Situated in a part of the lesser Bhal or salt land, Bhavnagar is not wholly devoid of trees. There are several large trees of different kinds, and there are also some large and extensive gardens in which mango trees, absent in the Bhal, are grown fairly well. To the south of the town there is a very large *vid* or land reserved for pasturage, with several large *babul* trees. To the south there are a few small hills called Chadika-ni-dhar. It is said that the hills have derived the name from the fact that when the city of Bhavnagar was newly established, a strong body of sentinels, commonly called in this country Chadikas, was posted here to apprise the population of the advent of an enemy. From the Chadika-ni-dhar, and stretching to the south-west till they cross the Gadhechi river and reach near the hill called the Thapnath Mahadev-ni-dhar, is a continuous or more or less continuous line of low hills. To the north-east is a cluster of small hills called Gorad, covered with thorny trees (*Gorad*). There are small hills here and there in the south, south-east and south-west but with this exception the country round the city is principally level and flat. The river Gadhechi takes its rise from the hills near the village of Sidsar, four miles to the south-west of Bhavnagar, and joins the Bhavnagar creek near the town.

Bhavnagar was founded in 1723 A.D. (V.S. 1779 Vaishakh Sud 3, Monday) by Bhavsinhji Gohil, on the site of a small village of Vadva near the creek, now one of the wards in the city. The *Suryavanshi* Gohil rulers of Bhavnagar originally belonged to Marwar, and Sejakji Gohil first came to Saurashtra in about 1260 A.D. and established Sejakpur. Their first capital was Umrala from where, later on, they shifted to Sihor. Sihor continued to be the capital of the Bhavnagar branch of Gohils till 1723. The choice of Bhavnagar as the State's capital was made under the stress of political condition prevailing in Saurashtra then. In 1722 A.D. the Maratha army under Kantaji Kadam Bande and Pilaji Gaekwad trampled the territory of Saurashtra, invaded the States one after the other to enhance and exact the tribute from them and had actually demanded a very heavy sum from the chiefs of Lathi and Gariadhar-Jiji Bawa and Noghanji. The chiefs pleaded inability to pay it and were, therefore, kept as hostages till a final settlement was made. Bhavsinhji, who had heard much about the ravages of the Maratha army decided to meet the Maratha Sardars. He set out in his mission from his capital at Sihor with only 200 brave soldiers and tried to negotiate a settlement. He too was asked to pay a heavy tribute which he declined and was also kept in the Maratha

camp along with the chiefs of Lathi and Gariadhar. On the Dassera day, on the pretext of performing *puja* of *khijda* tree, Bhavsinhji with his two companions—the Lathi and Gariadhar chiefs—escaped heroically from the Maratha camp, after fighting successfully with the Maratha soldiers.

Bhavsinhji realised that though the Maratha army had been defeated it would ransack the territory with greater force later on and deemed proper to shift his capital to a more secure place. With the twin objectives of taking advantage of the sea as a defensive measure and to secure the advantages of maritime trade, he selected a site near the coast which was subsequently called Bhavnagar. A learned bard, who was present when the city was founded, composed a poem in commemoration of the event to the following effect.

> " After the year four thousand and eight hundred of the 28th *Kaliyug* and in the year 1779, on the Akhatrij or the third day of the light half of the month of Vaishakh, on Monday, after calling Pandits and ascertaining the auspicious day, the foundation was laid."
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> " The Pandits, when they ascertained the auspicious day, very much rejoiced, and said that this city will be as prosperous as the city of that Indra who carried the thunderbolt in his hand. The leading man of Pandits with the consent of all, and after consideration gave it the great name of Bhavnagar."
>
> " The Brahmans said that this was an unobjectionable name and they foretold that those who shall envy it, will be ruined; that plenty of pearls and jewels will be found here, that so prosperous will it be that people will not recognise their own houses; and that so large will it be that no enemy will be able to take it."

Bhavsinhji's chief objective in founding this city was not only to be able to take to sea when the territory was invaded, but also to glean some of the rich harvest of trade, then monopolised by Cambay and Surat of which former port Gogha was an appanage. Bhavsinhji not only protected and fostered the trade but his prompt action in suppressing the Koli pirates of Talaja (Sartanpar) soon gave confidence to traders and merchants that they would get protection in Bhavnagar. So rapid was the prosperity of Bhavnagar that in 1799 A.D. the export trade at Bhavnagar port amounted to Rs. 2,296,456 and the import trade amounted to Rs. 1,294,427. Since Bhavnagar was founded the State was ruled in succession by (1) Bhavsinhji I (2) Akherajji II (3) Wakhatsinhji (4) Wajesinhji (5) Akherajji III (6) Sir Jaswantsinhji (7) Sir Takhtsinhji (8) Sir Bhavsinhji and (9) Sir Krishnakumarsinhji. H. H. Krishnakumarsinhji died in 1965. He was succeeded by his son, Virbhadrakumarsinhji. Late Sir Krishnakumarsinhji handed over the administration of his State to the people's representatives in 1948 on the advice of Mahatma Gandhiji and paved the way for the subsequent creation of a single and unified State of Saurashtra, in which it merged a few months later.

Besides being the headquarters of the district, Bhavnagar is the headquarters of the district panchayat, taluka panchayat and the Bhavnagar subdivision. A division of the State Transport Corporation has been created here from November, 1965. It is also the divisional headquarters of the Western Railway.

Settlement Pattern

" The former town like many other towns of Gujarat was enclosed by a fortwall with gates at the terminus of principal routes. Like all princely capitals it had the *darbargadh* in the midst of the town, where the ruling family lived as the rulers of those days preferred to live in the midst of their subjects. The original area of the city presents the usual picture of narrow streets, lanes and by-lanes subdivided into localities distinguished by well-marked distribution of castes and religion. The important and the more advanced trading communities occupied the central area close to the *darbargadh*, followed by the residential quarters of the artisan and service classes, the less advantageous communities like Harijans, Vaghris, Bharwads, etc., relegated to the area on the fringe of the town. One main thoroughfare passing from Gogha gate to Khar gate and extending into the port area, formed the principal shopping area with various bazar streets branching off at different points. Though all the public offices and the commercial area are situated within the limits of the old town, there is some functional concentration in areas near the dock estate where some of the main markets have come up. It is in this area that wholesale trade in sugar, cotton, grain, timber and iron is centralised. The government offices and institutions for higher education as well as the industrial area are located in the extended areas, though some of them still exist in the congested locality of the original town. The former *darbargadh* was replaced by what was then called Motibag Palace to provide the ruling prince with a well-built mansion surrounded by spacious compound and gardens. This building which was constructed on the outskirts of the town was also given up on the construction of a palace at some distance from the town. It then housed the State Secretariat and now the offices of the Collector and District Panchayat. The State lancers, infantry parade ground, jail and police lines which were formerly outside the town now stand in the midst of extended euburban and town planning area.

Originally founded on the site of village Vadva, which forms one of its congested wards and locality, the city first expanded its limits into Karchaliapara and Navapara on its outskirts beyond the overcrowded and congested localities of Vadva, Bhaga Talav, Pirchhalla and *darbargadh* which formed the original habitat. When the suburbs got filled in, further development took place towards the east in the Takhteshwar Plot area where the richer section of the population constructed residential-*cum*-bungalow type dwellings in modern style. After sometime, even this extension proved to be inadequate, as the city was continuously growing on account

of a flourishing maritime trade with foreign countries. The progressive administrators of the State prepared a model Town Planning Scheme which gave birth to the well-planned residential area named Krishnanagar with separate zones for the location of industries. The area now known as Krishnanagar was, therefore, planned and built according to a model Town Planning Scheme designed by expert town-planners."[1]

The Port

Bhavnagar is an all weather, well-developed intermediate port in the State and carried on a profitable inland and foreign trade. Situated near the head of the Gulf of Cambay, it has a natural harbour on the western sea board of India. Famous as a port for more than 200 years, its merchants had trade relations with foreign trade centres like Mozambique and Zanzibar in Africa, Aden and Muscat in Persian Gulf, Singapore, Penang, Ceylon and China. Bhavnagar State spent considerable amount for the promotion of its maritime trade. The harbour development scheme was executed by the Bhavnagar Darbar as early as 1933. In order to overcome the difficulty of siltation and to ensure floatation of ships even with receding tides a lock-gate has been constructed at the concrete jetty at a cost of over Rs. 90 lakhs in 1961. Since its opening, a large number of steamers has called at the port, and those taken within the lock-gate rose from 23 in 1961-62 to 96 in 1963-64

Principal items of imports at the port are American cotton, foodgrains and pulses, coke and coal, mineral oils and building materials, etc. Notable exports are groundnut oil, seeds and cake and salt. These are sent overseas to countries like the United Kingdom and other European countries, Persian Gulf and Japan and earn the country valuable foreign exchange. (Details about the maritime trade of the port will be found in Chapter VI—Banking, Trade and Commerce).

Industries

The city of Bhavnagar is an industrial town where large and small industries add to the prosperity of the city. Large industrial establishments in the city include textile mills including silk. oil mills, rubber factory, iron and steel works, bone and fertilizer factory, metal works, and manufacture of vegetable products. Medium and small sized units located in the city are textiles including rayon and thread making, oil mills, dairy, confectionery, snuff making, dyeing and printing, mills, hardware, etc. Bhavnagar is an important centre of wholesale trade, chief commodities being cereals, pulses, edible oils, tea and other miscellaneous articles. A machine tools factory is proposed to be established shortly with Czechoslovakian collaboration.

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1. TRIVEDI, R. K., Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Part I-A(i), *General Report on Census* pp. 389-390

Banking

Bhavnagar can also be considered to be a pioneer in banking. The Bhavnagar Darbar Bank was established as early as 1902 and functioned even after Independence. The State Bank of Saurashtra with its head office at Bhavnagar came into being in the year 1950 by amalgamating the five State Banks functioning in the former States of Saurashtra. This bank became a subsidiary to the State Bank of India from May, 1960. Bhavnagar being an important industrial and commercial centre, a good number of commercial banks are located in the city catering to the needs of the public.

Places of Interest in the City

Important places of interest in the city of Bhavnagar are described below.

Darbargadh

Darbargadh (the old palace) is situated in the heart of the city. It is a tall imposing structure of two storeys occupying a fairly large area. At present most of the interior portion of the building is occupied by the State Bank of Saurashtra and other offices.

Town Hall

The Town Hall is the Darbar Hall where H. H. Krishnakumarsinhji was installed as Maharaja and where all State functions and sessions of the Dhara Sabha were subsequently held. Constructed in the year 1932 at a cost of Rs. 350,000, the Town Hall is an imposing structure surrounded by a well laid out garden. After the integration of Saurashtra States in 1948, it was handed over to the Bhavnagar Municipality and was named Sir Krishnakumarsinhji Town Hall. It was in this hall that the ruler made a declaration in 1948, handing over his State's administration to the people's representatives in the presence of late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Temples and Mosques

The following are the important temples of the city.

(1) *Takhteshwar Temple*—Situated on a hillock near the Takhteshwar Railway Station, on the narrow gauge railway line between Bhavnagar and Mahuva, the temple commands a picturesque landscape. Built in 1893 A.D. the temple is a structure of pure marble and is a centre of attraction for visitors.

(2) *Gangajalia*—In the midst of what was formerly a tank stands the temple of Gangadevi with a *chhatri* or pavilion. Situated near the Gogha Gate, it was built by Maharaja Takhtsinhji in memory of Maharani Majirajba. Constructed of white marble, the temple was designed by Sir John Griffiths,

the then principal of Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay. Its construction had commenced in the year 1877 and was completed in 1893 A.D.

(3) *Jashonath Temple*—Named after Maharaja Jaswantsinhji, this is one of the biggest Shiva temples in the city. The ruler of the State constructed it in 1865 A.D. (V. S. 1921). The temple has silver doors donated by Maharaja Takhtsinhji, the grandson of Maharaja Jaswantsinhji. It is situated near the Peile Garden.

(4) *Ruvapari Temple*—Situated at a distance of about 2 km. from the city, the Ruvapari Mata's temple is considered to possess miraculous powers. Large number of persons from far distance visit the temple especially on Sunday which is considered to be the auspicious day of this goddess.

Other temples besides these are the Thapnath Mahadev, Jagdish temple, Bhid Bhanjan Mahadev, Dhareshwar temple, Parsi Fire temple, Jain Derasars and Christian churches.

Among the important mosques in the city mention may be made of the Nagina Masjid near the Khar Gate, the Jumma Masjid at the Amba Chowk and the Selarsha Dargah near the Peile Garden.

Sir Takhtsinhji Hospital—This hospital, one of the biggest in Saurashtra, is housed in an imposing structure. Equipped with all modern facilities, it has 417 beds for patients admitted to various departments.

The Central Salt Research Institute—The Central Salt Research Institute functions under the control of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India. Situated near the college campus, the building is a large and imposing two storeyed structure with a garden in front and a spacious central hall and a number of side rooms on each floor. A small building behind the main facade is used as a workshop while the experimental farm of about 125 acres of land situated nearby is working under the technical guidance of the institute. The main function of the institute is to work out methods for improving the quality of salt and to increase salt production for domestic as well as industrial uses. The institute devises methods for determining the quality of salt and salt products and conducts research on the economy of the bye-products.

Gandhi Smriti, Barton Library and Museum—Two importnt institutions worth mention are (1) Gandhi Smriti constructed in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, has a fine library and a museum of photographs depicting the life of the Father of the Nation, and (2) Barton Library, one of the oldest in the region with a small museum attached to it. These are described in detail in Chapter XV—Education and Culture.

Water Works—The Gaurishankar lake, the Khodiar lake and the Sihor lake constitute the main sources of water supply to the city. As the water supply from these sources is inadequate to meet the increasing demand of

the growing population and industrial expansion of the city, the Bhavnagar Municipality has taken in hand a scheme to draw water from the Shetrunji reservoir.

Parks and Gardens—A public garden called Kailas Vatika and a children's park (*Bal-Ghar*) constructed nearby enhance the beauty of the Gaurishankar lake and its surroundings. The garden extends over a fairly large area and provides varied attractions to the children to play and enjoy. Other gardens in the city are the Peile Garden, Mahila Bag, Diamond Chowk Garden, Thakker Bapa Garden and the Victoria Park. The Mahila Bag is meant exclusively for women and children, while the rest are open to all. The Victoria Park is now used as a botanical garden and is extended over an area of 500 acres on the southern outskirts of Bhavnagar city. The park was developed by raising such exotics like *Prosopis juliflora, Parkinsonia igitata and Dandrocalmus strictus*. A deer park and *Van Bhojan Shala* were added attractions to visitors and picnic goers. Steps are being taken for further development of the park by removing thorny trees and shrubs and replacing them by attractive trees of crown and floral beauty to make it a real centre of recreation for visitors. The wild animals include antelopes, spotted deer, blue bulls and *nilgai*, pigs, boars, porcupines, wolf, jackals, etc. Peacock and other birds also provide additional attraction to the public.

Town Planning Scheme—The Town Planning Scheme devised and executed by the former Bhavnagar State for the extension of the city on modern lines covers an area of about 1,500 acres estimated to house 48,000 persons. In order that the poor and middle class people could take advantage of the scheme, loans were liberally advanced on easy rates of interest the detalis of which are given in Chapter XIV. The Takhteshwar and Krishnanagar areas which have sprung up under this scheme have well laid out roads and well-planned houses surrounded by spacious squares and circles.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Bhavnagar city has since long remained a centre of educational and cultural activities. The Samaldas College is one of the oldest colleges in Saurashtra established as early as 1884 A.D. Besides this, Bhavnagar has a number of educational institutions in the city, viz., Sir P. P. Institute of Science, Sheth B. M. College of Commerce, Sir Bhavsinhji Polytechnic Institute, Sheth H. J. Law College, Sheth J. P. Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and the Mahila College (affiliated to the S. N. D. T. University, Bombay). Equally important are the schools imparting secondary eduction to students. They are the Alfred High School, Sanatana Dharma High School and others and multi-purpose schools like the Home School (*Ghar-Shala*) founded on Gandhian ideals. The institution named Dakshinamurti was founded at Bhavnagar on 28th December, 1910, but closed down in 1942.

BHAVNAGAR PARA

"Outside the municipal limits but in continuation of the city is the railway colony, built on the other side of the river Gadhechi as the headquarters of

the Bhavnagar State Railway. The colony is well-planned, and is now the headquarters of the Bhavnagar Division of the Western Railway. It has separate residential and administrative blocks which have since been expanded and added to meet the needs of the railway employees. The railway workshop is located at a distance beyond the living quarters. The colony is built in rectilinear pattern and provided with broad streets on either side of which residential bungalows constructed on the pattern of English countryside stand in the midst of large compounds. There is grading in residential accommodation according to the pay scale and status of the railway employees. The colony has all the civic amenities, its own school, post office, hospital, playgrounds for children, gymkhana, etc."[1]

Bhumbhali—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 2,218—M. 1,145; F. 1073); V. P.

Situated at a distance of 16 km. from Bhavnagar, Bhumbhali lies on 21° 40′ north latitude and 72° 10′ east longitude. It is famous for a kind of yellow earth, which is used as a flux for soldering metal vessels. This is largely exported. About 2 km. from Bhumbhali, on the road to Koliak, is the Bhamaria well, said to have been constructed by Mokhdaji Gohil to enable him to water his camels when raiding near Gogha. A tank constructed by the P.W.D. supplies water to the people through the pipe line.

Botad—Botad Taluka (P. 26,168—M. 13,595; F. 12,573); Mu.

Botad is situated on the north latitude 22° 10′ and east longitude 71° 42′. It is a taluka headquarters town and is situated at the confluence of the streams which unite to form the small river Utavali. The town is said to have been founded by the Jhalas of Kondh who were *bhayats* of Halvad-Dhrangadhra. In the anarchy and disorder which followed the death of the Moghul emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 A.D., Botad fell into the hands of the Khachar Kathis and came under the power of Bhavnagar Darbar at the close of the eighteenth century. At no great distance from the town is the shrine and tomb of a Muhammadan saint Pir Hamir Khan. The shrine, however, is not now in a good condition. Hamir Khan is said to have been the *thanadar* of Ranpur and is believed to have fallen in a battle with the Khuman and Vala Kathis at Ugamedi near Gadhada. There is a tank called the 'Phadsar Tank' near the Satpura Hills, not far from this town. Nowadays there is hardly any accumulation of water in the tank and it looks almost like a pit.

Botad is a junction station on the Surendranagar–Bhavnagar metre gauge section of the Western Railway, having a branch line extending up to Jasdan. It is also directly connected by rail with Ahmedabad, the State capital. A depot of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation is also located here and is connected by bus services with Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Paliyad, Gadhada, Barwala, Dhandhuka and Ahmedabad. The transport facilities enjoyed by

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1. TRIVEDI R. K., Census of India 1961, Vol.V, Part I-A(i), *General Report on Census*, p. 391

it have made Botad an important trade centre especially for cotton. Stones are quarried from the surrounding hills. It has the taluka and block development offices, civil and criminal courts, a veterinary dispensary, a primary health centre and a regulated market. Oil mills are also located here. There are also the government guest house and a *dharmashala*. The famous Gujarati poet late Shri Damodar Khushaldas Botadkar belonged to Botad.

Chogath—Umrala Mahal (P. 3,316—M. 1,730; F. 1,586); V.P.

Chogath lies on north latitude 21° 50′ and east longitude 71° 50′. It is at a distance of about 6 km. from the taluka headquarters and about 8 km. from the Dhola railway junction.

The village derives its name from four small hills called the Khodiar, Modlio, Bhutio and Dangardi surrounding it. There is a shrine of Khodiar Mata on the Khodiar hill, the idol of which is said to have been installed by the Gohil chieftain of Umrala. Two hills called respectively the Thapnath and Isalwo lie to the east of Chogath. On the Thapnath hill is a temple of Thapnath Mahadev. The celebrated sage Dhundhali Mal, whose curse is said to have caused the destruction of Valas, (ancient Vallabhipur) resided in a hut on Isalwo hill. The land of the place is favourable for cultivation of wheat, raised by irrigation.

Though no architectural remains now exist, the village is no doubt an ancient one. Large bricks of the type found at Valabhi have been excavated. There exists an old *paliyo* or monumental stone, inscription on which, though illegible, bears the date Samvat 1516 (1460 A.D.). Building stones are quarried from the hills lying to the north of the village. A fair is held here every year on Shravan Vad 15 (*amas*). The village is also connected with other places by State Transport buses.

Chok—Palitana Taluka (P. 953—M. 500; F. 453); V.P.

Chok lies on north latitude 21° 25′ and east longitude 71° 45′. Situated on the southern bank of the river Shetrunji, it is about 16 km. south-west of Palitana.

On the other side of the river is the Lonch hill, about 436 metres high, mentioned in Jain literature as Hastagiri. The Kamle hill over the *Boda-no nes* is 5 km. distant to the south-east of Chok. It is called Kadamgiri in the Jain annals and is about 406 metres high surmounted by a small temple. The town has one big temple and 29 small temples.

Datha—Talaja Taluka (P. 3,835—M. 1,946; F. 1,889); V.P.

Datha, which lies on 21° 05′ north latitude and 72° 05′ east longitude, is situated on the west bank of the river Bagad and is at a distance of about 21 km. from Talaja.

Before the integration of States of Saurashtra in 1948, this was a taluka or estate consisting of 26 villages. The *talukdars* were Sarvaiya Rajputs descendents of the old Chudasama dynasty of Sarva which they held in appanage. Datha had been a Muhammadan *thana* from very early times. After the death of emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 A.D., the *thanadar* became independent and started harassing the neighbouring areas. This Muhammadan *thanadar* was ousted by Bharvads and Mobh Ahirs, who were equally oppressive. The country folk, in this difficult situation, went to the Sarvaiyas of Hathsani and sought their aid. Sarvaiyas Varsoji, Kanoji and Megharajji responded to their appeal for succour and in 1754 took Datha. It is said that they first established themselves at Bhaguda, a village about 10 km. north-west of Datha, from where they harassed the town. The Sarvaiyas, after mustering enough strength in both men and material, laid an assault on Datha and conquered it.

Datha is one of the important villages of Talaja taluka. Its land is fertile. It is linked by rail as also by road with other places in the district. There are a post and telegraph office, a dispensary and a library.

Datretiya—Vallabhipur Mahal (P. 331—M. 171; F. 160); V.P.

Datretiya is located on 21° 05′ north latitude and 71° 60′ east longitude at a distance of 19 km. from the railway station of Bhimnath Road on the Ahmedabad-Dholka-Dhandhuka-Botad line of the Western Railway.

Originally called Dantalpur, it is situated at a distance of about 26 km. east of Botad. It is said to have been a sea port in ancient times, but the gradual silting up of the Gulf of Cambay has caused the sea to recede, so that the village now is well inland. In about 1870 A.D. Datretiya fell under the power of Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar and since that date remained under Bhavnagar. Though Datretiya is situated in the more or less salt plain called the Bhal, where the water is brackish, if not often too salty to be potable there is nevertheless a small well or *virda* of sweet water called Gangavo to the north of the village. The story about this well is that a merchant's son named Dantasha of this village married wife from inland. When she came to her husband's house she was given salt water for bathing purposes, but she refused to bathe with it and bathed with the water which she had brought from her parent's home in a large earthen vessel. At this her mother-in-law became angry and taunted that she should arrange with her father to send her sweet water daily. The bride, however, was obstinate and declared that she would die of hunger rather than bathe in salt water. For three days she fasted and worshipped Gangaji with great devotion. At the end of the third night the river goddess appeared to her in a dream and told her to take all her relatives with her to a spot north of the village where they would see her (Ganga) flowing. In the morning the bride told this thing to her relatives and requested them to accompany her to the spot. At first they laughed at her, but at last they accompanied her and saw to their surprise, a stream of pure sweet water flowing out of a *virda*.

They then congratulated the bride and after taking bath in the sweet water returned home. This stream is still sweet and has ever since been named Gangavo.

Dharuka—Umrala Mahal (P. 1,761—M. 929; F. 832.); V. P.

Dharuka is situated at a distance of 8 km. from Umrala and is located on the north latitude 21° 40′ and east longitude 71° 50′. The nearest railway station of Bajud on the Surendranagar-Bhavnagar railway line is situated at a distance of 8 km. from Dharuka.

The ancient name of this village was Dharagar. The river Rangholi flows east and south of Dharuka, though formerly it flowed by Sedarda. With the assistance of a leader of Vanani Gohils of Sedarda, Kumbhoji by name, Kumbhoji, the Lathia (who was a cousin of Kumbhoji Vanani), repopulated the village with Ghanchis and for many years Dharuka remained a headquarters of Ghanchis.

Dhasa—Gadhada Mahal (P. 4,653—M. 2,406; F. 2,247); V.P.

Dhasa, lying on north latitude 21° 45′ and east longitude 71° 30′, is a junction station on the Bhavnagar-Dhoraji section of the Western Railway. The Bhavnagar-Rajkot state highway also passes through Dhasa.

It has a good rest-house, a *dharmashala* and a small travellers' bungalow. It was near here in 1796 A.D. that a battle had become imminent between the forces of Nawab Hamid Khan of Junagadh and the Bhavnagar army led by Thakor Wakhatsinhji. But peace was arranged through the good offices of Jiaji Jethwa on terms favourable to Bhavnagar and the opposing forces separated without actually coming to blows. The bardic verses on the subject read to the following effect.

"Khumpo, Wajsur, and Hado became bewildered in the battle field. In the house of the Lord of Piram the flag of victory was hoisted."

Khumpo was Wala Khumpo of Chital, Wajsur was Khachar Wajsur of Jasdan, and Hado was Hado Khuman of Kundla.

There is a ginning press at Dhasa.

Dhola—Umrala Mahal (P. 2,534—M. 1,332; F. 1,202); V.P.

Dhola, located on north latitude 21° 45′ and east longitude 71° 50′, is at a distance of about 8 km. from Umrala and an important railway junction on Bhavnagar-Surendranagar metre gauge section of Western Railway. From here also emanates another important railway line connecting Dhola with Porbandar through Jetalsar. A fair is held here every year on Shravan Vad 8. Dhola is also connected by bus with other places.

Dihor—Talaja Taluka (P. 2,745—M. 1,434; F. 1.311); V.P.

Dihor lies on 21° 25′ north latitude and 72° 05′ east longitude. A railway station on the Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva narrow gauge section, the place is about 20 km. north-east from Talaja and 39 km. from Bhavnagar.

It suffered much during the famine of 1878-79 and consequently in 1881 its population had sunk to 1,364. Dihor was conquered by Hamirji, son of Gohil Govindji, ruling at Bhandaria, from Bakhalkia and Vaghasia Ahirs. After acquiring Dihor and its dependent villages, Hamirji also conquered Kukad. After these conquests he devoted much attention to the beautification of Dihor and Kukad. These two places were so much known for their beauty that the following couplet was said regarding them and their ruler Hamirji.

"Dihor is like Delhi, Kukad resembles Kashmir, Hamir is like Akbar, but there is some difference in their respective armies."

Dihor is surrounded by hills which adds to its charm. There are a dispensary and a library. It is also connected by State Transport buses.

Dundas—Mahuva Taluka (P. 995—M. 523; F. 472); V.P.

Dundas, 13 km. north-west of Mahuva, lies on north latitude 21° 05′ and east longitude 71° 35′ at a distance of 2 km. from Amritvel railway station.

The village is considered to be of great antiquity and is supposed to have derived its name from Dudda, daughter of the sister of king Dhruvasena I of Valabhi. She appears to have founded a famous Buddhist convent[1] which was given grant of lands by her maternal uncle Dhruvasena and his successors, Guhasena and Dhruvasena II. Dhruvasena I granted lands for the maintenance of the monks of Dudda's monastery and styled her his own sister's daughter. Guhasena gave more grants and styled the convent, "the great convent of Dudda, built by the venerable Dudda". Dhurvasena II added yet further to the convent endowments. In a further copper plate[2] of Shiladitya II we find the name of the village described as Dundas just as present. Lunsadi, the Lushagram mentioned in the plates, is only about two miles distant from Dundas, and in the neighbourhood are two Duddalas. As the great monastery of Sana is only about twenty-four miles away, it seems probable that this monastery may have been built by Duddas, especially as Buddhist monasteries were usually situated at a distance from the city. Sana was no doubt within the Valabhi kingdom and is near to Dundas, Duddala, etc. The Lushadi copper plates were found in Lunsadi and its boundary marches with Dundas. These last of the Lushadi copper plates were found by Wajeshankar Gaurishankar of Bhavnagar. The copper plate alludes to this and says that the lands of Dundas village lie to the south of one of these fields.

1. *Indian Antiquary*, IV, pp. 104-107 and 174-176
2. *Ibid.*, XI, pp. 305-309

Dr. Buhler styles Lusha-grame as Dhusha-grame, but Acharya Valabhji and Shri Girjashankar Samalji style it as Lushgram.

Both Dundas and Lunsadi bear marks of antiquity; old bricks and coins both of the Kshatrapa and Valabhi dynasties are found in the ruins here. Near Dundas is an ancient well, not far from which is a shrine of Vachhro Solanki, after whom the island in the little Rann of Kutch, which still bears this appellation, is named. Vachhro Solanki is said to have come to Katpur (Kanakavati) to be married but while the ceremony was being performed and while he yet wore the marriage garland and had only completed two of the four circlings round the altar, an alarm was raised that an enemy had driven off the village cattle. Vachhro Solanki and other Rajputs at once mounted and brought back the cattle, but Vachhro Solanki was slain in the skirmish. His head was said to have fallen near Dundas but the body was said to have followed the foe almost up to the gates of Mahuva. In the Dundas shrine there is an image of his head and in the shrine near Mahuva there is the image of a headless body. This legend of a headless body fighting the enemy is very common in Saurashtra.

Gadhada—Gadhada Mahal (P. 9,123—M. 4,713; F. 4,410); V.P.

Gadhada, the headquarters of the mahal, lies on north latitude 22° 25′ and east longitude 70° 25′ and is situated on the bank of the river Ghelo about 68 km. north-west of Bhavnagar. From Ningala on the main line of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar section, runs a branch line up to Gadhada. State Transport buses also ply from Botad and other places connecting Gadhada with these centres.

Gadhada originally was held by Chudasamas of Bhadli, and Ra Kan of Bhadli granted it to Godadka Khachars on service tenure. After the fall of Bhadli, the Khachars strongly entrenched themselves at Gadhada and Botad and some adjoining areas. They were uprooted by Thakor Wakhatsinhji in about 1763 A.D. A couplet in commemoration of the event runs as follows.

> "He burned Babra and reduced Kariana to dust,
> He conquered Jasdan, the upright Son of Akhmal."

Gadhada is famous for being one of the principal seats of the Vaishnavite sect called Swaminarayan, established in 1804 A.D. by Sahajanand Swami, who was born to Dharmadeva and Bhaktimata, a Brahmin family of Chhapaia near Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh on Ramnavmi, i.e., Chaitra Sud 9, V. S. 1837 (1781 A. D.) and was named Ghanshyam in childhood. He left his home at the tender age of eleven years and practised penance in the Himalayas under a *mahatma* named Gopal Yogi who gave him the name Nilkanthvarni. Within a period of seven years, he travelled through the length and breadth of India. He also went as far as Nepal, where the king was much impressed by the majestic lustre of this *Bal-yogi*. At the end he came to Loj near the sea coast of Mangrol in Junagadh district, where he met Swami Ramanand, his religious

preceptor, who, after initiating him to *Bhagawati diksha*, gave him the name Sahajanand Swami. Having been proclaimed an *Acharya* or the head of his followers by Swami Ramanand in 1801, he made Gujarat and Saurashtra the field of his religious reforms which were propagated by him vigorously and energetically. The times were of great political turmoil, but the influence of Sahajanand Swami sobered the turbulent Kolis and Kathis to a large extent, weaning them away from lawlessness and outlawry. He was a practical idealist and not merely a philosopher, and by methodical organisation, he put his sect on a sound footing in Gujarat and Saurashtra. Because of his winning personality, saintly behaviour, and spiritual attainments, he was worshipped as an incarnation of God in his very life-time. He has also been credited with several miracles, and was respected by leading personalities of the times, like the Gaekwad of Baroda and the Governor of Bombay. His social reforms include negation of animal sacrifice, female infanticide, *sati* and other social evils. His preachings had such a wide appeal that even Muslim Khojas and Jains became his disciples. However, he had retained the *varnashram* arrangement in his sect. He died at Gadhada in V. S. 1886 (on 28th October, 1829). At all the principal places of pilgrimage of the sect as also at the places visited and occupied by Swami Sahajanand, articles used and worn by him have been preserved with great care and devotion.

Sahajanand Swami adopted the Vishishtadvaitism of Ramanuja as his religious philosophy but also laid stress on *bhakti* or incorporated the devotion advocated by Vallabhacharya. *Shikshapatri*, the collection of the Swami's preachings in Sanskrit, is a code of moral instructions. It also contains practical advice for conduct in daily life. The principal tenets are piety, non-violence, truth, abstention from non-vegetarian food and intoxicating drinks. It advises regular keeping of accounts and avoidance of debts, forbids thefts and adultery and enjoins toleration and *brahmacharya*. Free association of persons of both sexes is not permitted and women have separate temples and congregations.

The temple of Gopi Nath Dev at Gadhada, built in 1829 A.D. is one of the biggest Swaminarayan temples. It is a fine piece of architecture with a high plinth, a spacious square, an assembly hall and large *dharmashalas* with kitchens for *sadhus* and pilgrims. Thousands of pilgrims from far and wide visit Gadhada for *darshan* every year.

Besides the taluka and block offices, Gadhada has a link court with Botad, a female teachers' training college, a primary health centre, a veterinary dispensary, high schools, a seed multiplication centre and weaving and tailoring training centres for males and females. Rosaries of beads of various sizes of sandal wood and *tulsi* (Basil beads) are made at Gadhada and are usually worn by followers of this faith. Other important handicraft products are handloom cloth, small wooden boxes, soap, hand-made paper and tiles. *Sahasra Dharo* in the Ghelo river, five miles from Gadhada, is resorted to by pilgrims of Swaminarayan sect for a holy bath.

A big fair is held at Gadhada on *Jal-jhilani Ekadashi*, i.e., Bhadrapad Sud 11 (September) which is an important festival for the Swaminarayan sect wherein more than 25,000 people participate.

Gadhakda—Kundla Taluka (P. 2,951—M. 1,469; F. 1,482); V.P.

Gadhakda, on north latitude 21° 25′ and east longitude 72° 05′, is about 19 km. south-east of Kundla and the nearest railway station of Vijapadi is 5 km. away from this place.

The high road from Kundla to Mahuva passes through its vicinity. The village is surrounded by a fortwall and the river Phulzar flows close by. The name is said to have been derived from *gatra*, i.e, body and *gad*, to bury, because Bava Somnath of Gorakhmadhi buried himself alive here. The story goes that the Kathis of Gadhakda had carried off his cattle. The Bava went to Gadhakda and demanded their restoration but the Kathis refused to give them back. After fasting vainly for three or four days he dug a pit and entered in it. On seeing this the Kathis relented and offered to come to terms with him; but he replied, "when an ascetic has once entered the grave. he may not return". Then he cursed the Kathis, saying that they would never be prosperous in future and caused himself to be buried alive under a banian tree still called *Somnathno vad* or Somnath's banian. Ghomla Khuman of Gadhakda distinguished himself by recovering some cattle of Junagadh villages from the Khasias of Sedarda village of Bhavnagar. The celebrated local poet Nagji Maharaj, an Audich Brahmin by caste, was born here. He was specially known for his stanzas or *kundalias* in which he prophesied the principal events of each year up to Samvat 1955 corresponding to 1899 A.D. His descendants made public the *kundalias* or stanzas for the year on the first day of the new year.

Gariadhar—Gariadhar Mahal (P. 8,202—M. 4,187; F. 4,015); V.P.

Gariadhar, the headquarters town of the mahal of the same name, lies on north latitude 21° 30′ and east longitude 71° 30′. It was the original seat of the chieftains of Palitana and is located at a distance of about 27 km. west of Palitana. It is connected with Bhavnagar and other district towns by road on which State Transport buses ply.

It is a large and flourishing town and is connected with Palitana by road. Gariadhar is mentioned both in the *Ain-i-Akbari* and the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* as a *pargana* of the Sorath Sarkar.

A legend told about this place runs as follows : While Gohils ruled at Gariadhar about five hundred years ago, there was a Muhammadan *thana* at Palitana and one Ibrahim Lodi was its *suba*. Palitana was at that time largely populated by shepherds (Bharvads). One of the shepherds, Lavji by name, had a beautiful daughter named Rajbai. The Muhammadan *suba* became enamoured of Rajbai's beauty and expressed a desire to marry her.

Lavji and others were put in a difficult situation. When Rajbai became aware of this, she at once requested her father to send invitation for the marriage. He (the *suba*) accordingly arrived with pomp and show and took her with him. When the procession reached near the Bhairavnath gate Rajbai burnt herself to death and while dying cursed the *suba* that he would lose his kingdom.

This did happen. Within a short time Prithviraj Gohil from Gariadhar marched over Palitana and defeated the *suba*. A temple of Rajbai Mata is in existence even today near the Bhairavnath gate. Prithviraj Gohil caused a tank to be built at a distance of about 2 km. from Palitana, known as the Bhavani *talav*, which also exists.

When the Maratha army under Pilaji Gaekwad and Kantaji Kadam Bande invaded Saurashtra in 1722 A.D. they imprisoned Noghanji of Gariadhar along with Bhavnagar and Lathi chiefs, Bhavsinhji and Jiji Bawa, as these chiefs had declared their inability to pay the heavy tribute demanded of them. These three chiefs escaped heroically from the Maratha camp on the Dassera day and returned to their respective capitals. Noghanji II, son of Kandhoji I, had a feud with the celebrated Loma Khuman of Kherdi. As the latter deprived him of Gariadhar, Noghanji recovered it with the aid of Akherajji of Bhavnagar. Wakhatsinhji also harried Gariadhar in order to take revenge because when the Bhavnagar chief was fighting the Gaekwad commander, Shivaram Gardi, Unadji attacked Sihor, though unsuccessfully.

Gariadhar was till recently a part of Palitana taluka and was made mahal headquarters with effect from July 5, 1951. Besides the office of the Mahalkari, Gariadhar has a block office, a primary health centre, a veterinary hospital, a seed multiplication centre and government and panchayat rest-houses. Electricity is supplied to the town from the grid system. There are a ginning factory and two co-operative transport societies.

Gogha—Gogha Mahal (P. 5,472—M. 2,503; F. 2,969); V.P.

Gogha, the mahal headquarters, lies on north latitude 21° 39′ and east longitude 72° 15′. It is situated in the south-east corner of Saurashtra peninsula about 64 km. from the head of the Gulf of Cambay. Its roadstead about a quarter of a mile from the shore, sheltered from the south-west by an outward bend of the land and on the south by the island of Piram, with soft muddy bottom and a sandy beach, is a good anchorage. At the town is a small creek or natural basin almost dry at low tide, but at high water offering entrance to small crafts.[1] Above high watermark the shore is covered with tombs, most of them dating from the time of Musalman rule (1390-1764). The rock is made of sandstone and makes a very rough conglomeration full

1. The rise and fall of the tides is in the springs from 30 to 33 feet. *Horsburgh's Directory*, 284.

of fossil bones. The surface is in parts covered with sea shells and gravels, in others with patches of black and yellow soils.[1]

Gogha[2] first appears as the port of Gundigadh a place of consequence in the Valabhi kingdom (480-720).[3] Under the Anhilvada rule (746-1297) except as a nursery for seamen, Gogha was not a place of any note.[4] One of the earliest mentions of the town is by Friar Jordanus, who, in 1321, passing north through Thana and Broach or as he writes it Parocco, stayed at 'Gaga'. Of the place he has left no details.[5] At this time Gogha is said to have been in the hands of Musalman soldiers of fortune,[6] from whom, a few years later (1325), Mokhdaji, the Gohil chief of Umrala,[7] took it with the island of Piram and levied toll on all ships passing up the Gulf. His exactions were brought to the notice of Emperor Muhammad Tughluq (1325-1351), who was then quelling a revolt in Gujarat, and, in 1347, Gogha was taken, Mokhdaji killed and the Piram fort destroyed.[8] The Emperor, satisfied with the destruction of Piram, left Gogha, at this time a great city with large markets in the hands of Dungarji, Mokhdaji's son.[9] For about fifty years the Gohils held Gogha.

1. A well-bore in 1836 showed many layers of conglomerate, a 35 feet bed of sandstone' and as deep as 360 feet, steep black and blue clay without water (*Trans. Bom. Geo. Soc.*, XIII 22).

2. M. VIVIEN DE ST. MARTIN, *Geographic Grecque et Latine*, 245, would make Gogha the Astacampra of Ptolemy and the Periplus. But Gogha's claim seems no better than that of Taluja, Gopnath, and other places between Diu and Cambay. The name Gogha has (Trans. Bom. Geo. VII 103, ed. 1846) been traced to the famous Rajput warrior and hero Gogobava. (Tod's *Rajasthan* II, 413, ed. 1873). A more likely derivation is from the shell, goghala, common along the coast. *Ind. Ant.*, *III. 278.*

3. *Indian Antiquary* III. 278.Perhaps Gundigadh, and not Gandevi, is the Anhilvada (746-1290) port Gandab (see *Ras mala*, 189). In the sixteenth century Gundilakyat (Koliac ?) was a place of interest; Gladvin's *Ain-i-Akbari*, II. 67. In Mandelsloa's map (1638) of the Cambay Gulf it is entered Gundium (Voyages, 100). It is still known as Gundikoliak from a village close by.

4. It is not mentioned by the Arab travellers (Eliot's Hist. I. 1-99) of that time nor in Mr. Forbe's list of Anhilvada ports, *Ras mala*, 180. According to one account the Sonaria lake was built by Sidh Raj (1004-1143). *Ras mala*, 197. The story seems without support, and the credit of Sidh Raj as a builder is so universal in Gujarat, that by itself the statement carries little weight

5. YULE's Cathay, I, 228

6. Major Watson's Bhavnagar, 20

7. *Indian Antiquary* III, 280, *Ras Mala*, 247, Col. Tod would put the capture of Gogha about 100 years earlier. Western India, 258-286.

8. WATSON's *Hist. of Gujarat*, 26. Mokhdaji was praised as a great hero by the Gujarati bards. Of the cause of his defeat one story is that a Musalman trader, overtaken by the stormy season, left in Mokhdaji's keeping, seven shiploads of earth. The earth was stored near a blacksmith's shop and some leaking into his fire was found to yield gold. Mokhdaji was told, used the gold dust, and replaced it with earth. On his return the merchant, finding no redress from him complained to the Emperor. Ind. Ant. III. 280, 281.

9. *Ras Mala*, 289. Yule's Cathay, II. 415. Lee's Ibn Batuta, 164. The description of the town is from Ibn Batuta who is supposed to have passed through Gujarat in 1342. Though the dates do not agree, the details that Piram, Bairam, was without inhabitants since its capture by the Mahommedans, and that Gogha, Kuka was under a pagan Dungarji Gohel. Dunkul, seem to show that Ibn Batuta was at Gogha after Mokhdaji's defeat. The want of any reference to it in the detailed account of his campaign in Gujarat (1346-1350), shows how little the Emperor thought of crushing Mokhdaji. Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi Elliot, III. 256. The Kazis of Gogha, were it is said, appointed by Emperor Muhammad Tughlak.

At the close of the century (1390) they were forced to pay tribute to Muzaffar Khan, the founder of the Ahmedabad dynasty.[1] In the fifteenth century, under the powerful Ahmedabad kings, the Gohils, though they kept their title of Gogha chiefs, retired to Umrala. At this time Gogha was probably under a Musalman Governor.[2] At the beginning of the sixteenth century (1503) it was entirely a Musalman town having a great traffic at the port in a fat and wealthy land.[3] Ten years later (1513), it was a very large town and a good port dealing in merchandise of all kinds and loading ships for Malabar and Aden.[4] In the struggle for supremacy at sea between the Gujarat kings and the Portuguese (1507-1538), Gogha suffered. A fortified place, surrounded by walls of brown stone, and populous place of great traffic it was attacked and burnt by the Portuguese in 1531,[5] and again in 1546 when it was beginning to recover. Towards the close of the sixteenth century with the decay of Portuguese power, Gogha seems to have regained its trade.

When taken in 1591[6] by Khan-i-Azam Mirza Kokaltash, the seventh of Akbar's viceroys, Gogha was a large well-built port with many merchants and ships whose cargoes went in small boats to Cambay.[7] It was reckoned as a part of Sorath and, besides port dues, yielded a yearly revenue of £1,666 (666,560 *dums**). In 1612, on the advice of Khojah Nasar, the Surat Governor, who praised its fine harbour and its trade with Cambay, the English gained leave to settle at Gogha.[8] But the agent, Whittington, found it a poor town and no regular factory seems to have been established.[9] Two years later (1614), the Portuguese destroyed Gogha for

1. *Ras Mala*, 289, Dungarji was succeeded by his son Viyoji and Viyoji by Kanji who died leaving a minor Sarangji. When the Musalmans came, Ramji, Sarangji's uncle and guardian, agreed to pay tribute and giving Sarangji as hostage hoped to keep for himself the chiefship. But Sarangji came back and the heads of the tribe taking his side, Ramji was forced to content himself with a small share. Muzaffer Khan's name was found in an inscription at Gogha. The date is puzzling 1378 (10 Rajb 777) or twelve years earlier than, according to the received account. Muzaffar came to Gujarat. But of the person Zafar Khan, son of Vajeul-mulk. there seems no doubt. Tod's *Western India*, 251.

2. *Ras Mala*, 289, 347. The names of the Umrala chiefs are, Sarangji, 1420 ; Shivdas, 1445 ; Jetaji, 1470 ; Ramdasji, 1500 ; Sartanji, 1535 ; and Visoji, 1570, who took Sihor, and made it his capital. Major Watson's Bhavnagar, 22.

3. Badger's Varthema, 92

4. Stanley's Barbosa, 63

5. Faria de Souza in Kerr, VI. 223. The walls were so well made that Faria thought they must be the work of the Chinese. The Chinese traded with Diu, Broach and other Cambay Gulf ports in the seventh, eighth, and twelfth centuries but there seems to be no evidence that they settled in Gujarat. See Yule's Cathay, I. LXXVIII–LXXIX.

6. Akbar-nama in Elliot's History, Vi. 90. Birds' *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, 416.

7. Gladwin's *Ain-i-Akbari*, II. 64. Diu and Cambay are the only ports mentioned by the European travellers of this time (1583-1588) See Fitch in Pinkerton, IX. 408 and Caesar Frederick in Haklyt. II. 344.

8. Best (21st October 1612) got an agreement for planting a factory at Gogha. *Kerr*. IX. 100. See Roe in *Kerr*, IX 359.

9. *Kerr*. IX. 124. Mandelslo (1638) makes no mention of an English factory at Gogha, nor has Anderson in his '*Western India*' made any reference to it.

* Currency of that time.

the third time, burning 120 trading boats and several ships, one of them the Rahimi, the great—1500 ton pilgrim ship.[1] This was the last show of the Portuguese power. The English had then become masters of the sea. By raising Surat as the chief port of Gujarat, the English injured the trade of the ports of Cambay and Gogha. Still; during the seventeenth and for a few years of the eighteenth centuries, Gogha was the centre of considerable traffic.

The eighteenth century was a period of decay. Trade declined and Gogha, passing from the hands of one Musalman noble to another (1730-1751), taken by the Peshwa (1751-1755), recovered by the Nawab of Cambay (1755), and again (1764) taken by the Peshwa, was under his indifferent and not very faithful managers, who were not quite able to compete successfully with its pushing rival Bhavnagar. In 1803 when it came under British management the trade of Gogha was almost gone. In 1810 things became a little better. Boats capable of carrying 50 to 250 tons burden were built, large quantities of cotton were exported, and new buildings were taking place of old empty houses.[2] In 1814 Mr. Rowles, the then Collector of Kaira, on the ground of its good anchorage, store houses, and skilled seamen and craftsmen, pleaded that special favour might be shown to Gogha.[3] Tolls were done away with, sea dues were lowered, and orders issued for building customs house, repairing of the town walls and stationing in the town of an Assistant Collector and a battalion of native infantry.[4] Yet in 1822, its west wall was in ruins and the port with little trade was, as in the old Anhilvada days, useful only as a nursery for seamen.[5] When in 1822 Mr. Borradaile was Collector of Customs, much was done for Gogha. With the stone of the Sonaria lake the town walls were repaired, and efforts were made to draw the bulk of the trade from Bhavnagar to Gogha. From this time Gogha made a steady progress, its reservoirs were cleared, roads made, and the sea face improved.[6] In 1850 it was a thriving town with over 8,000 inhabitants and a growing trade.[7] Ten years later (1860-1864) sharing in the wealth that was being poured into western India by the American war, Gogha was a rich town, and one of chief cotton ports of Saurashtra. Since then, due to the fall in the value of cotton and the spread of railways, the trade of the ports of the Cambay Gulf have been greatly reduced. Whatever trade remained, was generally attracted towards

1. *Kerr*, IX. 77 ; Orme's *Historical Fragments*, 346
2. Milburn's Or. Com. I. 158
3. Report of 23rd March, 1814
4. Gov. Res. 23rd August 1815. Bom. Gov. Rev. Rec. 102 of 1815, 2292-2303
5. TOD'S *Western India*, 250
6. Bom. Gov. Sel., New Series, V. 67
7. *Ras Mala*, 245, note 1. Its chief exports (1847) were cotton, tobacco, wool, and opium, BRIGG'S *Gujarashtra*, 281. MACKAY, *Western India* (1850), does not mention Gogha.

Bhavnagar by the lowering of tariffs and making of good roads. The average annual value of trade at the port of Gogha for the five years ending 1871-72 was £159,310 (Rs. 1,593,100) against the average of £ 81,196 (Rs. 811,960) for the five years ending 1877-78.

At the time of Independence, Gogha formed part of Ahmedabad district and had offices of the Mamlatdar and the Chief Constable. There was also a Court of Subordinate Judge.[1] After Independence it was transferred to Amreli district and continued in that district till 1959 when the districts of Saurashtra region were reorganised and Gogha was merged with the neighbouring district of Bhavnagar.

The development of Bhavnagar port, which is situated only at a distance of about 13 km. from this port, has greatly reduced the importance of Gogha. It is at present only a minor port for coastal traffic with port and customs offices. Cotton seeds, groundnut seeds, kerosene and cattle, etc., are the main items of imports, while export trade mainly consists of clay, cattle, onions, salt, groundnut, etc. The total traffic handled at this port during the year 1963-64 was 12,675 metric tonnes; of these imports were 675 tonnes and exports 12,000 tonnes.

Large deposits of white clay (earth) are found in different villages of Gogha mahal. There is an oil mill, a veterinary dispensary, two government rest-houses and a panchayat *dharmashala*. About 278 Jain idols of bronze dating as far back as V. S. 1123 to V. S. 1528 have been recently discovered from an underground vault of its famous and historical temple of " Navkhanda Parshwanath ".

Gopnath—Talaja Taluka

The famous temple of Gopnath is located in the Talaja taluka on north latitude 21° 10′ and east longitude 72° 10′. It is only 10 km. distant from Talaja, 76 km. from Bhavnagar and can also be reached from Gopnath Road railway station on the Bhavnagar-Mahuva narrow gauge line. It is said to have been built by Gopsinhji, a Gohil ruler of Rajpipla, who reigned at the commencement of the 16th century at Nandod (Broach district) while on a pilgrimage to holy Somnath. According to another version it was built by the twelve brothers after whom Bar Bhai Moholla of Bombay is known.

The legend about the place runs as follows : Once Lord Krishna of Dwarka while on a pilgrimage of Saurashtra visited, among others, this place with his wives and seeing it to be beautifully surrounded by dense trees, decided to take rest, and had a bath in the pleasant sea for a considerable time. The queens suddenly recollected that they had a vow to perform the *puja* of Mahadev before taking their meals and related the

1. The Subordinate Judge, whose jurisdiction included Dhandhuka Sub-division, only occasionally visited Gogha.

matter to Lord Krishna who stated that they would find a *Shivlinga* beneath their clothes. Hence the name Guptanath or Gopnath.

From the description given by the Greek navigators in Periplus of the Erythraean Sea it seems that the promontory of Gopnath was called Papike. There seems little doubt but that Papike was Gopnath from the context. The following couplet given in Indian Antiquary of April 1879 furthers this view.

" The promontory called
Papike near—
Astakapra which is opposite
Barugaza."

It is also mentioned in it that Astakapra, which has been identified by Dr. Buhler and Colonel Yule with Hathab, is not more than 39 km. from this, i.e., Gopnath point. Previous to the building of the temple, Gopnath and its vicinity were covered with dense jungle, and the country was in the hands of Vajas whose rule at their flourishing period extended as far as Alang-Manar. The late Thakor of Bhavnagar Jaswantsinhji built a nice bungalow at Gopnath. All the Gohils, including the former rulers of Bhavnagar, resort to this place for tonsorial ceremony of their sons. It is said that Narsinh Mehta, a famous Gujarati saint poet and devotee of Lord Krishna, performed penance at this temple. It is also said he was born in Talaja and had spent his early childhood there. Being tired of the constant tortures from his brother's wife Narsinh Mehta left the house with the idea of ending his life and arrived at the temple of Gopnath Mahadev. After fasting continuously for seven days, the Mahadev appeared to him in person and blessed him with a *darshan* of *Ras-lila* of Lord Krishna. Thereafter he moved about singing devotional songs in praise of the deity. An idol of Narsinh Mehta is installed in the precincts of the temple.

Climate of this place is very pleasant. There are a lighthouse and a good *dharmashala* here. A good quarry of mineral stones has been reported at this place. A fair is held every year on Shravan Vad 14 and *amavasya.*

Gundi—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 503—M. 242; F. 261); V.P.

Situated at a distance of about 23 km. from Bhavnagar in the south-east direction, Gundi and Koliyak are, in fact the two villages that lie opposite to each other respectively on the northern and southern banks of the Maleshwari river lying on the north latitude 21° 35′ and east longitude 72° 15′.

Gundi is the more ancient of the two, and was known in former times as Gundigadh. It was a place of settlement of that branch of Nagar Brahmins who migrated first to Gogha, and later on to Bhavnagar. Gundi

probably derived its name from the *gundi* tree, *Gordia angustiolia*, which is very common in this area. Koliyak is said to have been a suburb of Gundi, where the Kolis resided, hence the place was called Koliat, then corrupted to Koliyak. In the *Ain-i-Akbari* Gundi-Koliyak is alluded to as a port.[1] In the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* written about the middle of the eighteenth century, it is described as a *burah* or roadstead. Probably, however, as Gundi-Koliyak is only about 3 km. distant from the sea, the port or roadstead of Hathab, which lies at the mouth of the Maleshwari river, is really alluded to, and as Hathab was in ancient times the port of Gundi, this conjecture does not appear unreasonable. There is an ancient temple of Nilkantha Mahadev at Hathab. It was held in great esteem by the Nagar Brahmins of Gundi, and is still highly honoured by the Nagars of Gogha and Bhavnagar, so much so that when any Nagar distributes charity or gives a caste dinner, the *pujari* or worshipper of Nilkantha Mahadev at Hathab is always included. A fair called Bhadarvi Amas fair is held at Koliyak on Shravan Vad 15 (*amavasya*) in honour of Nishkalank Mahadev whose shrine is installed in the sea about 3 km. east of Koliyak and is attended by about 2,000 people. There is no temple. The *Shivalinga* is installed on a four feet high platform on the rock. The location of the Mahadev in the sea is such that it can be reached only during ebb time. One can visit it on Sud or Vad 1 when the place is accessible from 9 a. m. to 12 noon but should return to the shore by 1 p. m. before the place is under tidal waters. The tide is shifted by half an hour on each successive day, till it is new moon or full-moon day, on which days the Mahadev is accessible from 8 a. m. to 12 noon.

The Mahadev is called Nishkalank (or Mahadev without blemish) and is said to have been established by the Pandavas on *Bhadarvi Amas*. In the battle of Mahabharata between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, the former though victorious in the end, nevertheless incurred the sin of *gotrahatya*, i.e., killing of kinsmen, as Kauravas were their cousins. They, therefore, went on a pilgrimage to all the holy places in India and took bath there but at none of them were they satisfied of having been absolved from the sin. At last they came to the sea near Koliyak and as they were bathing in it on Shravan Vad *amavasya*, a celestial voice was heard which informed them that they were now free from all sins. The Pandavas thereupon installed a *Shivalinga* on the spot and named it 'Nishkalank'. Another legend is that as the Pandavas were moving from one place of pilgrimage to another, they had with them a black flag which Lord Krishna had informed them would turn white at a place which would be very sacred and absolve them from all sins. As they were passing by the village Mithi Virdi at a distance of about 11 km. from the spot of Nishkalank Mahadev, the flag commenced turning white and by the time they reached this spot it was completely white. The Pandavas thereupon considered

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1. *Indian Antiquary*, November, 1876

this spot to be very sacred and there installed Nishkalank Mahadev. It is called Nishkalank or Na-Kalank in common parlance.

Hathab—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 2,896—M. 1,509; F. 1,387); V.P.

Hathab is a village on seacoast and on north latitude 21° 35′ and east longitude 72° 15′. It is situated at a distance of about 26 km. from Bhavnagar.

This village was in the past the port of Gundi-Koliyak, the ancient Gundigadh, and has been identified by Colonel Yule with the Astakampra of the earlier Greek navigators. Dr. Buhler carried this identification a step further, and recognises it as the Hastakavapra of the copper-plate grant of Dhruvasena found at Kukad which has been alluded to in the same grant as Kukata.[1] The climate of the place is bracing in hot weather and there is a pleasant seaside retreat near this village close to the sea, built by the former ruler of Bhavnagar. There are two old temples near Hathab, viz., the Nilkanth Mahadev and the Bhadreshwar Mahadev. In a field near Hathab two impressions of coins were found. They had been evidently first made in clay and baked afterwards; one is an impression of a coin of Swami Chashtana, and the other of Rudrasen, son of Virdama. Similar coin impressions in backed earth have also been found at Junagadh.

Hathasani—Palitana Taluka (P. 878—M. 446; F. 332); V. P.

Hathasani, a village of some antiquity lies on north latitude 21° 25′ and east longitude 71° 50′. Situated on the northern bank of the river Shetrunji it is about 23 km. from Palitana.

It is mentioned as a *pargana* in the *Ain-i-Akbari* as well as in *Mirat-i-Ahmadi.* In the latter it is associated with Chok and has been called Hathasani Chok. It was an old holding of the Sarvaiyas who took refuge here when driven from Sarva by the Kathis. The *Mirat-i-Ahmadi* describes Hathasani as a holding of 14 villages paying a *Jama* of four lakhs and one thousand *dams* equal to Rs. 10,025 at that time.

Jalalpar—Gadhada Mahal (P. 2,389—M. 1,207; F. 1,172); V.P.

Jalalpar, a village in Gadhada mahal is situated on north latitude 21° 45′ and east longitude 71° 30′ about 5 km. from the Dhasa railway station.

It derives its name from a pir or Muhammadan saint named Jalalshah who resided here. He was so famous on account of his piety that the *thanadar* of Loliyana used to visit him once a week. People thought that he had supernatural powers, and as he always gave food and rich clothes to all ascetics of his faith, who passed from that place, he was supposed to have a treasure buried somewhere. The Kathis, who, at this time, were

1. *Indian Antiquary*, July, 1876

ravaging and plundering the Panchal area, hearing of this, sent some men to kill the *pir* and plunder his hut. At that time the *thanadar* of Loliyana was on a visit to the *pir*. The Kathis, therefore, returned and told about this to their comrades. Hearing the news the entire band of Kathis marched against Jalalshah's hut but were opposed by the *pir* and the *thanadar's* men and were driven off. During the fight the *pir* was, however, slain. His head is said to have fallen close to the Damnagar village of Memda and his body at the spot where his tomb now is, about 2 km. from Jalalpar. As the *pir* was originally a native of Sanand, the spot where his head fell is called the Sanandio or Lila Pir and the place where his body is buried is called the Jalalio Pir. Hundreds of people every year come to offer sweetmeats here. The tomb is surrounded by a dense grove of trees, but no one dares to cut them save for cooking *pir's* sweetmeats. There is a shrine of the Khodiyar Mata between Jalalpar and Mandva. She is said to be the younger sister of Avad Mata of the Pandhara *talav* mentioned in the account of Rohisala. This village was granted in 1881 A. D. to Shri Samaldas Parmananddas, Diwan of Bhavnagar State, by its ruler Sir Takhtsinhji.

Jesar—Kundla Taluka (P. 4,764—M. 2,492; F. 2,272); V.P.

Jesar lies on north latitude 21° 20′ and east longitude 71° 40′ and is about 23 km. south-west of Palitana.

The Garasias of this place were Sarvaiyas who trace their origin from the Amreli Sarvaiyas, who it seems were *Bhayat* of Sarva. After the conquest of Sorath (Junagadh) by Sultan Mahmud Begada of Gujarat, he annexed amongst others the *pargana* of Amreli. It seems that when the army of Sultan approached Amreli, Jaso was enjoying and was indifferent towards the invading forces. Seeing his apathy, a bard composed the following verses.

" Having abandoned your wives; you are absorbed in the society of mistress,
O Jasa, we knew beforehand that you would act thus,
Oh, son of Kawat,
The flag of the Emperor is unfurled in front of the town
Know you not this yet oh Jasa, you deaf son of Kawat. "

The Garasias, Jesaji and Vejoji then went into outlawry and slew a Muhammadan named Shujaat Khan who was sent against them and performed many gallant actions. But ultimately, feeling helpless in recovering Amreli they made peace with the Sultan and were permitted to settle at the village of Hathasani in Und Division. Jaso then founded Jesar and Veja founded Vejalkot. They subsequently divided their estate. Jesar came to the share of Vejo and Hathasani to Jesoji. Vejoji's son Shangho went to dine with his uncle at Hathasani on a certain occasion and on his way home died near a tank, which is now called after him the Shangha *talav*.

A suspicion that he had been poisoned was enough to arouse enmity between the two houses. Jeso had a son named Ranmalji and when he (Ranmalji) was about to be married, he went to Jesar to invite his uncle to come to his wedding. Vejoji received him with kindness but his wife urged him to take revenge for her son Shangho's death. She persuaded her husband to slay the sleeping Ranmalji. Vejoji fled to the Gir forest after murdering Ranmalji, where Jesoji pursued him and after some search found him while engaged in hunting deer. Vejoji fought gallantly but was slain. Jesoji, struck with grief by his son's death and remorse at having caused his brother to be slain, stabbed himself to the heart with his own dagger. While in Gir forest, Vejo was said to have built a fort known as Vejalkot on the river Rawal but other bards attributed the founding of this place to Vinjal Wajo. But the following couplet certainly favours Vejo's claim.

"Veja caused the fort of Vejalkot to be built with stone and *chunam*,
The two athlets are fighting you, lion like son of Soda."

A village in the Gir named Jesadhar is called after Jeso. Jesoji's young son Bhanji went to Dhank to his maternal uncle Ratansingh and Vejoji's son also left Und. But when they grew up they came together to Hathasani which had been made a crown village. The Nagasia Dheds gave them much assistance and they recovered both Hathasani and Jesar and their dependent villages. In gratitude for these services they abolished the *Bham* tax (or tax on the skins of dead animals). The Sarvaiyas thereafter had a feud with Babarias and later on with Kathis. They, however, subsequently, settled peacefully in Und and conquered or otherwise acquired many other villages so that Und was usually called Und Saravaiya.

The following bardic verse alludes to the entry of Sarvaiyas in Und.

"Oh Sultan, the Sarvaiya has entered Undal (Und), Jeso goes there by force. In that there is no credit to the emperor."

The soil of Jesar is fertile and produces cotton and mangoes of good quality. A sacred temple of Mahadev built by Vejoji I is called in his memory the Vejnath Mahadev.

Junasavar—Kundla Taluka (P. 2,162—M. 1,084; F. 1,078); V.P.

Junasavar is situated on the southern bank of the river Shetrunji about 11 km. south-west of Kundla and lies on north latitude 21° 20′ and east longitude 71° 10′. The nearest railway station of Jira is at a distance of about 5 km. Bhavnagar-Kundla road passes through its vicinity.

The old town of Savar or Savarda was situated about a mile west of the present site of the village of Junasavar and appears to have originally belonged to the Deria subdivision of the Vala tribe. From them it is said to have been conquered by the Khumans under their leader Mundhraj who is said to have been the fourth in descent from Khumanji, the son of

Veravalji, in about 1480. It is said that at this time Junasavar was in the heart of the forest, which was so dense that one bank of the river could not be seen from the other because of the thick forest. After the conquest of Junasavar, Mundhraj Khuman led his forces against Kundla, then called Kundalpur, and conquered it. The following bardic verses relate to the conquests of Mundhraj especially that of Kundla.

"Mundho was a powerful chief,
Quickly he populated the country,
First he attacked the land, (lit. furrow)
And came to the unconquered fort of Savar,
He fined the Patgar of Panchal,
And subdued the Babarias.
The cattle of Patan, Junagadh and Jetpur,
The powerful one carried off.
On this side, he did the same to Talaja.
His horses skirmish in all directions.
Even the truth telling Wajas,
Go with quaking hearts.
The Kathis are lords of the earth
In all countries thy horsemen ride
In Samvat fifteen thirty six,
He conquered Kundalpur."

Mundhraj also conquered Mitiyala but the Khumans were subsequently driven out from there by Khasias and Khumans retired to Kherdi, Ansodar and other places.

After the expulsion of Khasias, Kalo Khuman found the country waste and established the village of Junasavar. However, Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar subdued Khumans in 1870 A.D. and Junasavar naturally came under Bhavnagar sway.

The trade of this place both in grain and cotton was next only to Kundla.

Karjala—Kundla Taluka (P. 1,165—M. 598; F. 567); V.P.

Karjala, which lies on north latitude 21° 20′ and east longitude 71° 10′, is situated on the eastern bank of the river Ghelo and is about 11 km. north-west of Kundla. The nearest railway station, i.e., of Kundla is situated at a distance of about 10 km.

The *ex*-Garasias were Khumans. Karjala appears to have been an ancient settlement, as large bricks similar to those found in the ruins of Valabhi. etc., have been excavated from here. The first Garasias of whom there is any authentic account are the Vajas and the village is said to have belonged to Merji Vaja. Merji was betrothed in a Chudasama family of Dhari. When the bridal party was on its way to Karjala,

the Babarias attacked the village and drove off the cattle. At that time Merji Vaja was about to be married to his bride. He had put on the *vagho* or wedding garment, the *varmala* or nuptial necklace, and on his right wrist was a *mindhal*[1] (berry) attached by a coloured string. The bride was also attired in bridal array. When he heard the news of the attack of the Babarias, he immediately marched at the head of a chosen body of men and overtook the Babarias a few km. from Karjala. He attacked his enemies but as it was a desperate encounter from which he could not definitely hope to return alive, he tore off the *varmala* or marriage necklace and after fighting fiercely was slain. When his bride reached Karjala, she heard news of his death and became *sati*, but before mounting the funeral pyre she uttered the following verse.

> 'I have not walked the four turns in the nuptial pandal[2]
> She said, husband, the marriage garland is broken,
> O Lord of Karjala.
>
> I have not donned the bridal raiment and walked thus attired on the banks of the Shel.
>
> For this I grieve much, said she, O Lord of Karjala.
>
> The band mounted in pursuit, but you did not return :
> Where hast thou certainly fallen on the battle-field
> O Lord of Karjala.
>
> Oh Vaja, the ship has wrecked when it had almost reached the shore;
> But thou has left me in mid-ocean:
> O Lord of Karjala. "

Having said this she entered the pyre and died. It is said thereafter, that he became a ghost and caused much annoyance to the people. Finally his soul was appeased by the spear-head, which had slain him, being taken to Gaya and *shradha*[3] performed there for his soul's salvation. The monument of the *sati* is still standing on the banks of the Shel river and bears the date Samvat 1470 (1414 A.D.).

Kharakdi—Gogha Mahal (P. 1,050—M. 546; F. 504); V.P.

Kharakdi lies on north latitude 21° 35′ and east longitude 72° 10′ and is situated about 16 km. south-east of Sihor.

Kharakdi is specially famous for the shrine of Balan Shah, which contains an inscription dated the month of Ramzan Sur San 666. i.e., 1266 A. D.

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1. *Randia dumetorum*

2. The sacred fire is in the centre of the *chori* or nuptial-pandal to be encompassed four times by both the bride and the bridegroom after they have worshipped sacred element.

3. *Shradha* are the ceremonies annually performed for the spiritual welfare of the dead.

that is to say during the reign of Emperor Gheiasuddin Balban of Delhi, and of the Raja Arjundev Vaghela of Anhilvada. A legend associated with this shrine is that Balan Shah was the son of Abu Muhammad Zakariya, son of Muhammad Ghos, son of Abu Bakr, the Kuraishi of Multan, and having difference with his father, left the Punjab and came to Gogha, accompanied by a servant named Sheikh Umar. He, afterwards, came to Kharakdi and rested at the house of a Muhammadan oil-presser. There, he cured the mother of the oil-presser of her blindness and performed several other miracles. After living there for many years, he died in Sur San 666 in the month of Ramzan at the age of a hundred years. After his (Balan Shah's) death, his shrine was worshiped by the villagers, and his servant Sheikh Umar and the oil-presser remained in charge of it. Later on Sheikh Umar becoming jealous of the share in the profits taken by the oil-presser, murdered him and remained in sole charge of it. It is said that Mokhdaji Gohil requested the then person in charge of the shrine to worship for him so that he might have a son. He was first advised by him to offer a cow in sacrifice. Subsequently the saint realized that Mokhdaji was a Hindu and asked him to offer a buffalo, which he did. He, thereupon obtained two sons, viz., Dungarji and Samarsinhji. The present person in charge of the shrine is said to be a descendent of Sheikh Umar. An inscription at the shrine of Balan Shah runs as follows.

" In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. There is no God but God Muhammad is the Apostle of God. In truth the saints are of God. Sheikh Saiyad Vadian of true heart was by caste a Saiyed. He was a freeman and true man. And by origin he was son of the great Sheikh-Kutub-ul-Alam, the glorious. Baha-ul-Hak-wa-us-Sharah-wa-ud-din, named Abu Muhammad Zakariya, son of Muhammad Ghos, son of Abu Bakr, the Kuraishi. He was born on the night of Friday the 27th of the month of Ramazan on the night of power[1] (*Lailat-ul-Kadar*) Sur San 566. And the length of his life in this world was 100 years. And he departed from this perishing home to the eternal mansion between the afternoon and evening of the 7th of the month of Safar, Sur San 666. Such was the Sheikh. And the name of his mother was Makhdum Sahib Fatimah, the daughter of Isa, the son of the Sheikh-ul-Islam the intercessor in both worlds. Sheikh Mahya-ud-din-Abd-ul-Kadar Al Hasani and they say his tribe was Gilani."

There is another tablet in the mausoleum which bears an inscription to the effect that the shrine was repaired in A.H. 1245.

Khodiyar Mata—Sihor Taluka

Khodiyar Mata is a well-known shrine of the family goddess of the ruling house of the former Bhavnagar State. Included in Rajpara Village Panchayat it is situated on the Khodiyari river in the midst of natural surroundings of great beauty. The temple which has 36 pillars and a vast *mandap*, is adminis-

1. On this night the *Quran* is supposed to have descended from heaven.

tered by a trust. Besides being a good picnic spot it is much venerated in the area and is visited in large numbers especially on Sundays and Tuesdays as these days are considered auspicious for the worship of this deity. There is a *dharmashala* where pilgrims can stay and cook food. Near the temple is a vast tank known as Khodiyar Tank, the construction work of which commenced in the year 1930-31 and was completed in 1935 at a cost of Rs. 338,045. The tank has a gross capacity of 232 m.c. feet of water. It supplies water to Bhavnagar city and some villages of the Bhal area. Stone of good quality was found in the quarries of the village and used in building construction at Bhavnagar.

The place is situated at a distance of only 2 km. from Khodiar Road railway station, 4 km. from Sihor and 15 km. from Bhavnagar. Special buses ply to and from Khodiyar Mandir to Bhavnagar on Sundays.

Khuntavada—Mahuva Taluka (P. 4,037—M. 2,046; F. 1,991); V.P.

Lying on the north latitude 21° 10′ and east longitude 71° 50′, Khuntavada is about 20 km. north-west of Mahuva and about 45 km. south-east of Kundla. The nearest railway station of Mahuva is about 16 km. from here.

It seems there was a Buddhist cave at a distance of about 2 km. from Khuntavada in the hill called Chitradhar. The cave was locally called Aghori Bava's cave. There are also the remains of a good fort in this village. It appears to have been a *thana* under the Muhammadan rule. There is a well in the fort called *Panch-Bibi-no-Kuvo*, and temples of Jains and Vaishnavas as well as the followers of Swaminarayan in the village. It is situated on the southern bank of the river Malan and three streams, viz., that of Malan, Rojhki and Lilio unite to form a *triveni*, at a distance of about half a mile from here. Temple of Bileshwar Mahadev stands near *triveni*, where a fair is held every year on the last day (i.e., *amavasya*) of Shravan.

It is said that when Champraj Vala ruled at Bhadrod, this part of the territory was waste. He (Champraj Vala) had two sons Hemgal and Gangait. They quarreled with their father and came here and built a hamlet on the site of the present village. At this time prince Fateh Khan, who had formerly been the governor of Mangrol, being displeased with his father, had gone into outlawry and went there with his five wives and much treasure. He made friends with these two brothers while they on the other hand were each desirous to kill him without letting the other know and obtain possession of his treasure. But the brothers quarreled on the subject and their differences became so bitter that Hemgalji at last told the prince of the evil designs of Gangait. The prince poisoned Gangait and built a strong fort. The village is said to have derived its name from the betrayal of Gangait by Hemgal, and is hence called Khuntavada or the place of betrayal. Afterwards Ahmed Shah sent a force against the prince and besieged the place. The prince made a stubborn resistance but had to flee to the Shial Island, and is believed to have thrown his

entire treasure in the creek. On this, his five wives threw themselves into the fort well, ever since called *Panch-Bibi-no-Kuvo*. He was, however, pursued by the Sultan's army and taken prisoner and carried away to Ahmedabad where he shortly died in confinement. Hemgalji now occupied the village and his descendents ruled here for some generations. The last of them was Vala Khengarji, who enlisted many Vanara Ahirs in his service. Khengarji oppressed the Ahirs so much that they united together and seized him and binding him cast him into the bonfire lit on the occasion of the Holi or Spring Festival and burned him to death. The Ahirs now became masters of the villages and in their turn commenced to ravage the country. The Muhammadans, however. conquered them and built a *thana* at Khuntavada, which became under them the seat of a *pargana*. After the dissolution of the Moghul power, this village was plundered and burned by the Khumans of Kundla and lay waste until about 1785-86 when Thakor Wakhatsinhji, after the conquest of Mahuva, caused it to be repopulated, and was thereafter in the Bhavnagar territory. Good mangoes and coconuts grow here.

Koliyak—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 1,961—M. 940; F.1,021)—See Gundi, p. 585-6

Kotda Uncha—Mahuva Taluka (P. 432—M. 223; F. 209); V.P.

Kotda Uncha, which lies on north latitude 21° and east longitude 71° 51′ is at a distance of about 8 km. from the railway station of Datha.

This small village is picturesquely situated on a rock overlooking the Arabian Sea. It is famous as having been the capital of the Vajas after they were expelled from Somnath Patan and had been forced to quit Una. Here (Kotda Uncha) they remained for many years. One Khimoji Vajo was especially famous as a daring pirate. The Vaja rule is said in these times to have extended as far as the Manasri river at Alang Manar. There is a famous well at the village of Nicha Kotda, about one mile north of Kotda Uncha, where it is said that 32 *kos* or water-bags could work at a time, without appreciably diminishing the level of water.

Kundla—Kundla Taluka (P. 31,051—M. 16,034; F. 15,017); Mu.

Kundla, the headquarters of the taluka, lies on north latitude 21° 20′ and east longitude 71° 15′. It is about 113 km. distant south-west of Bhavnagar and about 51 km. north-west of Mahuva. It is a railway station on the Dhasa-Rajula-Mahuva metre gauge section of the Western Railway. There is a depot of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation and the town is linked with important places in the district by regular State Transport buses.

Kundla was conquered by the Kotilas from the Valas in about 1400 A.D. It was then a subordinate hamlet belonging to Mitiyala, which was the seat of rule. A curious legend is told about the supposed origin of the Navli river passing between Kundla and Savar Samapadar on the

bank opposite. It is said that when Bhoj Kotila was ruling at Kundla, there was great scarcity of water. Bhoj Kotila had a son named Someshwar Kotila and seven daughters, all of marriageable age. The daughters were betrothed to neighbouring landholders, and their marriage was arranged but owing to the scarcity of water, it was difficult for the ceremony to be performed, as the supply of water hardly sufficed even for the population, and would, therefore, never be enough for the marriage guests. Someshwar Kotila was so grieved on this account, that he resolved to perform severe austerities before Khodiyar Mata, whose temple is about 3 km. distant from Kundla, and if she remained obdurate, to starve himself to death. After seven days of fasting, the Mata appeared to him in a dream and told him to fill a large pot with cow-milk, and mounting his horse to ride home pouring the milk behind him. She promised that wherever the milk would be poured a river will flow. She, however, warned him strictly not to look behind, as otherwise, if he did so, the stream would instantly cease to flow further. When Someshwar arrived near the spot where the Darbari garden is now situated, he looked behind to see whether the stream was following him or not, but the moment he did so, water ceased to flow. Even in famine years water flows in this river up to this point. In 1480 A.D. the Khumans, under their chief Mundhraj, conquered Mitiyala and Kundla from the Kotilas, but do not appear to have settled here permanently and Mitiyala and Kundla were shortly afterwards occupied by the Khasias, who held the area until driven out by the Khumans in 1720 A.D. The following lines allude to the commencement of the power of the Khasias.

"Khasia says to Khuman
Do not offend the Kolis;
Either you will have to quit Kundla
or else settle my Pal."[1]

In 1720 the Khumans recovered Kundla,though Mitiyala was still held by the Khasias. After some more fighting they drove the Khasias from Mitiyala also and firmly established themselves in the country. They held Kundla until it was conquered by Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar in 1790. A.D. The Kundla Khumans made themselves very notorious by their raids, and at one time by their forays in the Nawanagar (Jamnagar) territory drew on themselves the wrath of Meraman Khawas, the powerful minister of Nawanagar, who laid Kundla waste. Roundabout 1820 A.D. the Khumans of Kundla particuarly Hado Khuman and others went into outlawry with Bhavnagar ruler Vajesinhji and plundered the villages of Mitiyala and Nesri of Kundla *pargana*. The joint troops of Bhavnagar, Lathi and Amreli, under the guidance of Captain Barnwell in 1822 were deployed to subdue the Khumans. Furious over the death of his son Mansur, Jogidas Khuman, hero of many bardic tales, vigorously began devastating the Bhavnagar *parganas*. The Valas of Jetpur and Chital were secretly aiding and sheltering these insurgent Khumans.

1. Pal means blackmail

Captain Barnwell, therefore, summoned them and forced them to bind themselves by securities never to aid them. In 1823 A.D. Vajesinhji despatched a strong force to Walardi and in an encounter captured Harsur and Golan, sons of Jogidas as well as his daughter. Hado Khuman and a *charan* named Hepo were slain in a battle near Gugrala. Jogidas Khuman and his relations Viro, Bhan, Pitho, Bhim, Ram and Lakho were captured by the Jetpur shareholders, i.e., Jetpur, Jasdan, Bhadli, Bagasra and Dedan and handed over to Captain Barnwell who put them to jail. Some of the relations of Jogidas died while in prison and as no result could be achieved from the negotiations with Bhavnagar rulers, Khumans again went into outlawry and struck Jesar. In an encounter near Mitiyala, Champo Khuman, son of Ghelo Khuman was killed. However, others were still at large taking shelter in Gir. In 1826 Kathis made another inroad into Bhavnagar territory. Vajesinhji himself marched against Khumans and drove them off. Captain Barnwell desired Vajesinhji to reduce the force of Khumans and promised him a suitable reward. Jogidas Khuman, realising the obstinacy of Bhavnagar chief, embarked on a project of plundering Bhavnagar proper and collected a large force of men. In this he was aided by Palitana chief Kandhoji. Khumans instead of raiding Bhavnagar plundered the village of Nagdhanimba, and on their way back looted and burnt many villages. In an encounter with Bhavnagar troops near Timana, twenty to twenty-five Kathis were put to death and others wounded and hence they fled away. This continued for some time during which successful raids were launched by Khumans on Haliad and Dihor. The garrison at Tana, however, gave a stubborn fight in which Kathis were worsted, who sought refuge at Palitana. Vajesinhji became weary of the continued Kathi raids and, therefore, sought to make peace with them. With this object he sent his chief minister, Parmananddas Ranchhoddas, and peace was concluded in 1829 by which the Kathis restored the territory to Bhavnagar by way of compensation.

The Kundla soil is very fertile and grows good quality of cotton. Kundla is famous for its handicraft saddles, hand woven rugs, woollen blankets, *khadi* and specially for iron scales which are exported all over India. There is also a workshop of the Small Industries Service Institute and a regulated market yard.

Loliyana—Vallabhipur Mahal (P. 411—M. 226; F. 185); V.P.

Lying on 21° 50′ north latitude and 71° 45′ east longitude, Loliyana is situated 55 km. north-west of Bhavnagar and on the southern bank of the river Ghelo. The railway station of Ujalvav (Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge railway) is about 10 km. away from this place.

It used to be considered in *mulkgiri* times under the Muhammadans that Sorath commenced at Loliyana. It was the early conquest of the Muhammadans who kept a strong *thana* there, and its *thanadar* was an important person in the local politics of the 17th and 18th centuries. Jasa Khuman,

son of Golan Khuman and grandson of Bhoko Khuman, the brother of celebrated Loma Khuman, obtained Loliyana for a temporary period sometime between 1650 and 1660 A. D. One bardic account mentions that Khumans were driven away by Muhammadans roundabout 1664 A.D., and Kanthad Khuman, son of Jasa taken prisoner. Loliyana is famous for its minaret which is about 57 metres high. (Story associated with this minaret is given in the account of the village Piparali of Umrala).

Mahuva—Mahuva Taluka (P. 32,732—M. 17,042; F. 15,690); Mu.

Mahuva, the headquarters of the taluka, lies on north latitude 21° and east longitude 71° 45′. The ancient name of this town on the shore of the Arabian Sea was Moherak. It is situated on the west bank of the river Malan at a distance of about 89 km. from Bhavnagar. Mahuva is a railway junction on the Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva narrow gauge railway line. From here also emanates another metre gauge line connecting Mahuva with Kundla and Dhasa. State Transport buses also connect it with other important places around.

Near to this town on the seashore is the small village of Katpar, called by Muhammadans Kutbpur. Hindus believe that Katpur was originally called Kundanpur and was the residence of Raja Bhishmak, the father of Rukmini. The story goes that Rukmini's brother Rukmi or Rukmaiya had been insisting that she should marry his friend Shishupal,Raja of Chedi Desha, and therby win favour of Jarasandha, king of Magadha. But Rukmini was deeply in love with Lord Shri Krishna of Dwarka and requested him to carry her off. He consented and carried her off but was pursued by her brother, Rukmi, who overtook him near Bhadrod. A battle was fought near Bhadrod in which Rukmi was defeated. Shri Krishna then married Rukmini at Madhavpur in Junagadh district. Afterwards Katpur was called Kanakavati Nagri after Kanaksen Chavda who is said to have settled here. One Bhavad Shah, a Jain by faith, is said to have been granted the town of Mahuva in *inam* by King Vikram. He had a son named Javad Shah who was even more renowned than his father.[1] This Javad Shah is said to have been a contemporary of Kanaksen Chavda of Kanakavati. Many years after this Mahuva was conquered by Bhoj Vala of Talaja, regarding which conquest the following couplet is famous.

"Mahuva and the river Malan
Third the Vasi Talav
By thy shouting at them
They have been ruined, Oh Bhojla."

The Suda Vav inscription seems to show that Mahuva and its vicinity was subject to the Vajas later on. This inscription is dated Samvat 1437 (1381 A.D.). The *vav* was built by Jalu Devi, wife of Vaman, minister of the Vaja King Sud. After him she named it the Suda Vav.

1. *Ras Mala*, New Edition, pp. 7-8

Later on, Mahuva came under the rule of the Sultans of Gujarat. Madhumavati is the sanskritised name of this town subsequent to A.D. 1400. The inscription in the Lakshmi-Narayan temple at Mahuva distinctly mentions the names of Mahuva as follows.

In the *Satya Yug*, Dharmaranya; in the *Dwapar Yug*, Satyamandir; in the *Treta Yug*, Vedbhuvan; and in the *Kali Yug*, Moherak.

The inscription in the Lakshmi-Narayan temple at Mahuva dated Samvat 1500 (A.D. 1444) speaks of Mahuva as Madhumavati. Mahuva was a port of some trade under both the Gujarat Sultans and the Moghul Emperors. After the collapse of the Moghul power in the eighteenth century in about A.D. 1740, the Mahuva *thanadar*, a Kharedia *sipahi* by caste, became independent. Eleven years later, in A.D. 1751 Mahuva was conquered from the Kharedia by Viso Khasia and Misri Khasia, and in A.D. 1784 they were expelled from there by Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar. Since then the town remained a Bhavnagar possession. There is an old mosque at Mahuva on the north side of the town outside the Bhadrod gate. The mosque contains an inscription in Arabic language bearing the date Sur San 826 in the reign of Sultan Ahmad of Gujarat stating that this mosque was built by Malik Asar-ul-malik bin-Malik Jauhor. There are also some Jain temples of Samvat 1500 (A.D. 1444). On the seashore between Katpur and Nikol is an ancient temple of Bhavani Mata, almost covered by the drifting sand. Four fairs attended by about 5,000 people are held here during the year, on Chaitra Sud 15 (April), Shravan Sud 15, Shravan Vad 30 (August), and Ashvin Sud 15 (October). Temples of Chakreshwari Mata, Mahalakshmi Mata and Vagheshwari Mata and a nice Jain *dehrasar* of Mahavir Swami are located here. The soil of Mahuva is very fertile. Good quality mangoes known as 'Jamadar' akin to Alphonso are grown here in plenty. There are two gardens at Mahuva where betelvine is cultivated. The branching palmyra, or 'Ravan Tad', grows here. There are large plantations of coconut trees spread over a wide area and also a cotton steam press. There is a lighthouse at the Mahuva harbour overlooking the Katpar Bay. The light is catoptric of the fourth order and is situated ninety-nine feet above highwater.

Mahuva has, from a long time, been a famous port from where coastal and foreign trade is carried on. Merchants of the place are well-to-do and enterprising. They had trade relations with their counterparts at Muscat and Aden. Trade returns are available since 1870-71. Exports in those days were cotton, grain and *ghee*. Chief imports were grain and seeds, coconuts, betel-nuts and dryfruits, sugar-cane, metals, cotton piece goods and yarn, timber, groceries and other miscellaneous articles. The present day exports and imports include a variety of items. Articles of imports are: super phosphates, building materials, wood and timber, cotton seeds, kerosene, iron and steel, foodgrains and other miscellaneous articles; those of exports are groundnut oil and seeds, oil cakes, salt, onion, castor and other seeds, raw cotton, *ghee*, etc. Total exports and imports respectively were to the

tune of 25,688 and 28,700 metric tonnes during 1963-64 registering an increase of 13,364 m. tonnes over the total trade in the previous year when exports were 17,628 m. tonnes and imports 23,096 m. tonnes. This shows that while total trade has increased the trend is towards increased exports.

Mahuva is famous for its handicraft work in wood and ivory. Lacquer work on wooden cots, cradles, sofa-sets and a large variety of toys is its speciality in demand all over Saurashtra. Ivory work consists of preparing small boxes, chess-men; pen-holders and various other articles of artistic merit. The town is also famous for its *surma* or sulphurate of antimony which is exported to neighbouring areas. Mahuva has a spinning and weaving mill, six oil mills, a wool cleaning factory and two ginning factories. During the First Five Year Plan period one hundred tenements were constructed at a cost of Rs. 241,165 and given to industrial labourers on subsidised rent. The town has electricity and piped water supply. Besides the taluka Mamlatdar's office, Mahuva is also the headquarters of the subdivision of the district with the office of the Deputy Collector. It has a market yard and office of the market committee. Regulated commodities such as wheat, *jowar*, *bajri*, *mag*, *adad*, gram, chillies (dry) and groundnut brought to the market by the cultivators are sold by open auction in the yard. The Mahuva Municipality maintains a comprehensive medical unit which comprised a hundred bed general hospital equipped with modern equipments, a maternity hospital, a blood bank and a family planning centre.

Among the famous personalities Mahuva has produced mention must be made of the great Jain saint Acharya Shri Vijay Nemi Suri Maharaj and of late Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi, Bar-at-Law, who attended the World Religious Congress at Chicago (U.S.A.) and also visited the United Kingdom, France and Germany and delivered lectures on Jain philosophy.

Mandva—Talaja Taluka (P. 617—M. 312; F. 305); V.P..

Mandva, a village of historical importance, lies on 21° 20′ north latitude and 72° 15′ east longitude. Known in ancient times as Mandvagadh, this village is about 27 km. north-east of Talaja and is hardly 3 km. away from the seashore.

A story about La Gohil, one of the bold and loyal soldiers of Solanki ruler Sidhraj Jaysinh, is associated with this place. It is said that after visiting Sihor, Sidhraj visited the seacoast and came, amongst other places, to Mandva. Now on a certain day when Sidhraj went to sea shore along with his horsemen, he found the sea turbulent. Some of the horsemen said in fun that only a bold man could ride a hundred yards into such a stormy sea and added that only the Gohil race, which was famous for its bravery and loyalty, could do this. Someone taunted that the bravery of Gohil race rested only in boastings at market places. La Gohil could not bear such derogatory remarks about his race and in order to prove that Gohil race still possessed prowess and

loyalty, he led his horse into the ocean and was swallowed by the stormy sea along with his steed. The following bardic lines allude to this.

"A dispute arose at Mandavgadh,
Ranas and Rais witnessed it,
Laji mounted his horse,
And the Maru entered the sea."

La Gohil had before his death once promised to give the horse to his *charan* named Rao Adho, which the latter demanded. When the men accompanying Sidhraj Jaysinh asked him to choose any other horse, he declared that he would accept none except the one promised to him by La Gohil. He then went to the sea shore and fasted there and adjured La Gohil to fulfil his promise. After three days' fast La Gohil appeared to him in a dream and requested him to let him rest in peace. But the *charan* was adamant. In the morning La Gohil's silver opium box fell in the *charan's* lap, but the *charan* hurled it back in the sea. Then La Gohil himself appeared before him (*charan*) in person, and failing to persuade him he brought the horse and offered it to him. The *charan* requested that La Gohil should come to the village *chora* and give him the horse there in the presence of other men as otherwise people would not believe it. La Gohil consented on the condition that the *charan* should go in front of him and should not look behind, for then he would be unable to proceed further. The *charan* proceeded close up to the village, when feeling somewhat suspicious whether La Gohil was following him, he looked round and La Gohil at once stood still and in the presence of all men there, he gave the *charan* the horse. He then became invisible. The following bardic verses praise La Gohil's prowess.

" Oh, La Gohil, you have this day much
increased the fame of your clan,
Powerful one; you mounted your horse,
you alone, O Gohil ventured,
Into the midst of Ocean you went,
O obstinate king,
you obtained supreme felicity, you crown
of the heads of heroes.
You returned, you generous one, true to
your promise, and save your own horse.
Your name and deeds are such that
they are immovably fixed as the Pole Star."

It is said that Sidhraj caused a small shrine to be erected to Mahadev at the spot where the La plunged into the sea. However, both the temple as also the shrine have disappeared with the passage of time.

Manar—Talaja Taluka (P. 947—M. 475; F. 472)—See Alang, p. 561

Mithi Virdi—Talaja Taluka (P. 610—M. 330; F. 280); V.P.

Situated at a distance of 32 km. from Bhavnagar and 23 km. from the railway station of Dihor, Mithi Virdi lies on 21° 20′ north latitude and 72° 15′

east longitude. It is famous for sweet water wells dug in the rocks lying on seashore. The wells are everyday twice over-flowed by the salty sea-water. Nevertheless the well-water remains sweet. Besides these wells there are several minor springs of the same type. Hence Mithi Virdi, the name of the village, which means 'sweet well'.

Mota Khokhra—Gogha Mahal (P. 1,376—M. 735; F. 641); V.P.

Mota Khokhra lies on north latitude 21° 30′ and east longitude 72° 05′. It is situated at the foot of Khokhra hills and is about 19 km. south-east of Sihor and 24 km. south of Bhavnagar.

It was probably a site of a small *thana*, subordinate to Palitana. The Palitana *thanadar*, Rahib Khan bin Sahib Khan, was killed by his own *kamdar* (minister) to whom the name of Mem Gadhuka was given. This person is said to have usurped the *thanadari* of Palitana and to have given Khokhra to his brother-in-law Ghori Piru, who strengthened this *thana* by erecting a fort called after him Gadh Ghoriya. Mokhdaji Gohil subsequently conquered Khokhra from Ghori Piru. Piru's tomb is still seen at Mota Khokhra on a hillock close to the village. Leaving this village in charge of his sister, Mokhdaji Gohil marched forth to Piram and from there he conquered Gogha. Afterwards Visoji, the Thakor of Sihor, granted two villages, viz., Khokhra and Kanad to Vachoji, his brother's (Viroji's) son, in appreciation of his services.

One of his descedants named Monaji wrote over half of Khokhra in 1811 A.D. to the British Government.

Nagdhanimba—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 984—M. 506; F. 478); V.P.

Situated at a distance of 19 km. south of Bhavnagar, 14 to 16 km. south-west of Gogha and on the northern bank of the river Maleshwari, Nagdhanimba lies on north latitude 21° 35′ and east longitude 72° 10′. The ancient name of Nagdhanimba was Nagdhvani. The origin of this name is said to have been derived from a huge cobra or *nag* of the race of the famous Bhujio Nag which gave its name to the fort of Bhuj. This *nag* resided in a hillock called the Nagdhar close to the village. Certain stones have been erected there in its honour and these are worshipped on the Nagpanchami day, that is on the fifth day of the dark half of the month of Shravan. Formerly the *nag* was reported to have appeared once every year in person before his worshippers and is said to have bestowed much wealth on the Nagmagas, i.e., snake charmers. It is said that a certain snake catcher resided near the temple of the Khodiyar Mata south of the Nagdhar. This man had a very beautiful daughter who was quite well versed in magic and incantations. The snake catcher, who himself was learned in magic, went one day to the Nagdhar and made the *nag* by the force of his incantations, to come out from his abode. However, the snake bit the snake catcher, who immediately died. When his daughter heard of this, she was greatly angered and proceeding to the Nagdhar she commanded the *nag* to come out. So powerful were her charms that the *nag* came out in a submissive attitude. She then asked him why he had killed her father. The *nag* replied that her father had awakened him from

a sound sleep and hence he had bitten him in anger. Then the girl said, "I will reduce you to ashes by my magic in revenge for the death of my father." So saying she commenced to recite her charms and incantations. The *nag* becoming helpless begged for mercy and promised to restore her father to life and to bestow much wealth on him. She thereupon stopped tormenting the *nag* who brought her father back to life. Delighted at this she bowed and adored the *nag*, who said to her through a mysterious sound or *dhvani*, "You have pleased me much, for you are very wise and I promise you that you shall lead a very happy life and further be married to the chief of Mandva." The prophecy came true. Ever after this, the village is called Nagadhvaniba, corrupted into Nagdhanimba. It was looted by the Khumans of Kundla under Jogidas Khuman in about 1826 A.D.

Palitana—Palitana Taluka (P. 24,581—M. 12,783; F. 11,798); Mu.

Palitana, the principal town of the taluka and once the capital of Palitana State is situated on the southern bank of Khari stream, a tributary of the Shetrunji river. It lies on north latitude 21° 30′ and east longitude 71° 50′ and is about 23 km. south of Songadh, a station on the Surendranagar-Botad-Dhola-Bhavnagar metre gauge section of the Western Railway. The famous Shatrunjaya hills called Shetrunjo are only 2 km. away from the town

Palitana was the chief town of a *pargana* under the Moghul Government and was the site of an imperial *thana*. Its chieftains derive their origin from Gohil Shahji (one of the sons of Sejakji) who was granted the *tappa* of Mandvi by the Rao of Junagadh on the occasion of the marriage of Shahji's sister Valam Kunvarba to the Rao. Others say that Sarangji, his elder brother, gave Shahji, the Mandvi *tappa*. Not long afterwards these Gohils acquired Gariadhar and moved their capital there. Shahji was succeeded by his son Sarjanji. The rulers, who succeeded Sarjanji to the Palitana throne, died in quick succession, one after the other, and nothing noteworthy happened during their regime. However, Noghanji II, son of Kandhoji I had a feud with the celebrated Loma Khuman of Kherdi who deprived him of Gariadhar. Noghanji recovered it subsequently with the aid of Akherajji of Sihor and made peace with Loma Khuman and granted him the village of Ranigam. The great grandson of Noghanji II, Shavoji by name was much harassed by the Khuman Kathis and was finally killed in an encounter at the village of Khara. a few km. away from Gariadhar. Sartanji I, Kandhoji III, Prathiraj and Noghanji III succeeded one by one to the throne. Sartanji II, son of Noghanji III was treacherously killed at Palitana in about 1766 A.D. by his Bhayad Alubhai, who usurped the *gadi*. However, Odha Khuman of Ansodar aided Sartanji's brother Unadji in recovering the throne, for whom the following couplet is widely known.

"He seated Thakor Unad
On the throne of Palitana,
You made oh Odha the fate of Alu
To resemble that of Harchand."

Odha Khuman having killed Alubhai administered the affairs of Palitana in the name of Unadji, brother of Sartanji II, whom he kept in subjection and did not permit him to have a voice in the affairs of the government. He also showed a desire to usurp the throne. But Unadji contrived to expel him. Unadji was afterwards at feud with Pitha Khuman as well as with Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar but while remaining on the defensive, he avoided all actual aggressive warfares as far as it lay within his power. He also wisely consolidated his rule and maintained a good force. Once, however, he attacked Sihor though unsuccessfully when Wakhatsinhji was fighting with Shivaram Gardi, a Gaekwad commander. In retaliation Wakhatsinhji harried Gariadhar and besieged Palitana, but Unadji's stubborn resistance obliged him to retire. About this time Colonel Walker's permanent settlement of the tribute of the Kathiawar chieftains was concluded.

Shatrunjaya is the most important centre of Jain pilgrimage in Gujarat. It is associated with Rishabhdev, the first Jain *tirthankar*, called Adinath or Adishwar, who is the principal deity of worship there. The hill lies about a mile south of Palitana town and is 603 metres above the sea level. The summit is divided into two peaks, but the valley between has been partly built with masonry by a wealthy Jain merchant named Motishah. The entire summit is covered with temples among which the most famous are those of Adinath, Kumar Pal, Vimal Shah, Samprati Raja and the Chomukh, which is the highest and can be clearly distinguished from a distance. On account of its sacredness, it is also called *Siddhakshetra* or *Siddhachal*, where all the *tirthankars*, except Neminath and numerous saints, attained *siddhi* or *nirvan*. Because of its special sanctity Jains all over India are anxious to perform at least one pilgrimage to this holy shrine during their lifetime. The author of the Ras Mala aptly describes the ardent desire of every devout Jain to spend money on some construction or the other on the Shatrunjaya in following terms.

" There is hardly a city in India, through its length and breadth, from the river of Sind to the sacred Ganges, from Himalayan diadem of icepeaks to the throne of his virgin daughter, Rudra's destined bride, that has not supplied at one time or other contributions of wealth to the edifices which crown the hill of Palitana; street after street and square after square extend these shrines of the Jain faith with their stately enclosures, half palace, half fortress, raised in marble magnificence upon the lonely and majestic mountain, and like the mansions of another world, far removed in upper air from the ordinary tread of mortals."

There is a Muhammadan shrine called Angar Pir on the summit of the hill but is without a wall.

Palitana is one of the important centres of trade in the district. Trade in chillies, *gur*, cereals and pulses is being carried on profitably by local merchants. The Saurashtra Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1955 has been applied to the limits of Palitana taluka and trade in such commodities as

chillies, *gur*, cereals and pulses has been regulated since the application of the Act. A market yard has been built by the market committee where facility for agriculturists to bring their produce is provided. Five oil mills and three factories are also located here.

Paliyad—Botad Taluka (P. 5,134—M. 2,616; F. 2,518); V. P.

Paliyad, a railway station on the Botad-Jasdan metre gauge railway line of the Western Railway, was a separate tribute-paying taluka belonging to the Khachar Kathis of the Thebani branch. It lies on north latitude 22° 10′ and east longitude 71° 35′ on the southern bank of the river Goma. which joins Sukh Bhadar at Ranpur. Paliyad is about 16 km. north-west of Botad and 17 km. south-west of Ranpur. It was the headquarters of a second class Agency *thana* and was for a short time the headquarters of one of the earlier political officers deputed to Kathiawar, viz., Captain Greenwood, first Assistant Resident, Baroda, who was sent in 1809 to co-operate with Major Corsellis, posted with a force at Paliyad to subdue the Kathis. It was originally a subordinate village to Sarva from whence the tribe of Chudasamas derived their name. Kalo Khachar, grandson of Thebo Khachar, who gave his name to the Thebani branch of Khachars, conquered Sarva and Paliyad from the Sarvaiyas in about 1710 A.D. After this conquest, the Kathis made Paliyad their headquarters and Sarva, which had given its name to the *pargana* under the Moghul Government, had sunk into an insignificant village.

An *annakshetra* (for giving free food to the poor and visiting pilgrims) was founded here by a famous saint Apa Visamanji, who is said to have performed many miracles during his lifetime. People in the surrounding areas have great reverence for Unad Bapu, his successor and the present person in charge of the *annakshetra*. Paliyad has a temple of Apa Visamanji, and the *samadhi* of Apa Jiva Bhagat of Songadh, which is visited by Kathis from all over Saurashtra. A fair named Kamakhia is held here on Bhadrapad Sud 2 wherein 10,000 to 15,000 people participate.

A ginning and pressing factory is located at Paliyad which is the second biggest centre in Botad taluka and an important trade centre, also well-known for its leather industry. It is well-connected by State Transport buses with other important places in the district. There is a middle school and a primary health sub-centre.

Paliyad was the scene of three earthquakes occurring in 1938, 1939 and 1963. The earthquake which took place in the month of July 1938 lasted continuously for three months during which period the inhabitants evacuated and resided in hutments built outside the town. There were no casualties though damage to buildings was considerable. The town was repopulated three months later. Slight tremors were intermitently felt in the following year, though they did not cause any damage to the people and property.

During the last earthquake, which occurred on the midnight of 6th July, 1963, the inhabitants vacated the town but no damage was done.

Patana—Vallabhipur Mahal (P. 1,983—M, 1,028; F. 955); V. P.

Patana is situated on 22° north latitude and 71° 50′ east longitude. The nearest railway station of Bhimnath is at a distance of 23 km. It is 32 km. south-east of Botad and is close to the Gogha-Dhandhuka road.

Patana is principally famous for the *kharo* or soda found in some of the lands in that village. Water mixed with this soda, it is said, cooks grains very expeditiously and well, and it is actually used for this purpose by the inhabitants of Patana and the neighbouring villages. It is also used by washermen in washing clothes and in the preparation of *kanku* or red powder sued for making the forehead caste-marks. The quantity of *kharo* depends upon rainfall and cold.

Piparali—Umrala Mahal (P. 1,046—M. 524; F. 522); V. P.

Piparali, a village about 5 km. from Umrala, is located on 21° 40′ north latitude and 71° 45′ east longitude. The railway station of Bajud is about 6 km. from the place.

Once a prosperous village on the river Rangholi, this was originally the site of Muhammadan *thana* and probably was a connecting link between the great military posts of Loliyana and Palitana of that time. From the inscription on the *paliyo* or memorial stone, which is now almost illegible, it seems probable that Piparali was first conquered by the Muhammadans in Samvat 1546, (1490 A.D.), and was then called Vabhihinagar. The inscription is in the memory of Rat Hemo who was killed while rescuing the village cattle. The celebrated Loma Khuman of Kherdi tried to establish a *thana* here but could not succeed. Till the close of the 18th century the place was held by Kathi Luna Manjaria, who was expelled by Thakor Wakhatsinhji by force. There is a fine minaret, though some portion of its top is now broken. A story associated with this minaret is that two sisters, who were much attached to each other were married to the *thanadars* of Piparali and Loliyana (where there is also a minaret) respectively. It was decided by them to wave a torch every night from these minarets to indicate that all was well. But one night on account of rains the torch on the Piparali minaret was extinguished by the rain and wind. When the sister at Loliyana saw no torch on Piparali minaret as usual, she despaired of her sister's life, cast herself headlong from the minaret and was dashed to pieces.[1]

Piram—Gogha Mahal (P. 17—M. 8; F. 9)

Piram, an island in the Gulf of Cambay, lying on north latitude 21° 35′, and east longitude 72° 34′, four and a half miles south of Gogha and two

1. The story is told in a different form by some people. It is said that instead of two sisters, they were brother and sister.

and a half from the nearest part of the Kathiawar shore,[1] is a reef of rock covered in part by blown sand, at high water 1½ miles long and barely half a mile broad.[2] It formed part of the estate of the Gogha *Kasbatis* to whom it was assigned by one of the Delhi Emperors. Except on the south it is surrounded by rocky reefs rising to the surface from a depth of from sixty to seventy feet.[3] Past the island, the tide runs with force, at springs in a three or four feet high wall rushing at the rate of 5½ to 6 knots at high tide and 4 to 5 knots at low tide. Waves of the sea near the island are very violent and boats passing near Piram have to be very cautious. A regular boat service is operating between Gogha and Dahej *via* Piram. Among the western coast is a broken line of twenty to thirty feet high conglomerate and clay clifts,[4] and, except a stretch of level land in the east, the rest of the island is almost covered by ranges of sand hills, the height of which ranges from 60 to 150 feet. In the east some *bajri* and *til* are grown. An attempt has recently been made to grow coconut on the island.

History

Till the fourteenth century[5] Piram was held by Bariya Kolis. Then it passed into the hand of Mokhdaji Gohil of Umrala in 1325. Strengthening himself in his island fortress, Mokhdaji became a great pirate chief. "Many a vessel did he plunder, in every port was he an object of terror, from all that sailed he exacted tribute."[6] But his power was short-lived. About 1347

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1. Ethersey (1838) Trans. Bom. Geo. Soc. 2,55. Other accounts differ. Ibn. Batuta (1340-1350) says four miles from the main land (Yule's Cathay, II, 415); Dr. Buist (1885) one-third of a mile from the coast., twelve miles from Gogha, Trans. Bom. Geo. Soc., XIII. 23; three miles off the coast, *Ras Mala*, I. 321; Thornton's authorities differ from 500 yards to two miles. But the 500 yards in the breadth of the deep channel not the whole distance to the shore, Jour. Bom. As. Soc. V. I. 290.

2. Mr. Blanford Mem. Geo. Survey of India, VI. 212 ; 1800 yards long and from 300 to 500 yards wide, Trans. Bom. Geo. Soc. II. 55 ; Major Fullgames (1836); 1½ to two miles long. ½ to ¾ miles broad ; Dr. Lush (1836) three miles round, Jour. Bom. As, Soc. V.2, 767; Dr. Buist (1855) at high water three miles round, at low nine long, three broad, Trans. Bom. Geo. Soc. XIII. 25.

3. At low water spring tides the channel, between the island and a rocky reefs in the centre of the Gulf, is only 1200 yards wide. To the north-west it has an extra-ordinary depth of 360 feet ; the bottom of yellow clay; to the west the depth varies from 240 to 280 feet, and to the east from 198 to 160. Ethersey (1838) Trans. Bom. Geo. Soc. II. 455.

4. The order of the strata in an exposed cliff at the south-east end of the island is beginning from the top reddish mould mixed with stony rubbish, three feet ; yellow pudding stone, 1½ feet, sandy clay, one foot; dark coloured pudding stone, six inches; sandy clay, four feet ; yellow pudding stone, one foot; sandy clay, six inches; recent sand stone, six inches; sandy clay, eight feet; yellow pudding stone, one foot. Trans Bom. Geo. Soc. II. 56. From the lowest stratum of pudding stone nearly all of the fossil remains have been obtained Jour. Bom. As. Soc. V. I. 290.

5. Piram has been (As. Res. IX. 195) supposed to be the island Baiones mentioned in the Periplus about 160 A.D. But Vincent's identification of Baiones with Diu seems better to suit the text. Commerce of the Ancients, II. 394. It may be Al Idrisi's (1154) Mend, that is Mehd or Koli island, six miles of the Cambay coast whoses people were thieves. Jaubert, I. 171.

6. *Ras Mala*, 248

complaints of his piracies were laid before the Emperor Muhammad Tughluq, then in Gujarat quelling a revolt. Advancing in person he attacked Piram, slew Mokhdaji and took his fort.[1] On Mokhdaji's defeat, the island was deserted. The Hindu seamen of Cambay Gulf still cherish Mokhdaji's memory, seldom passing Piram without making him an offering.[2] After the failure of the fourteenth century settlement no attempt was made to fortify Piram till, on the decay of Moghul power about the middle of the eighteenth century, a merchant from Surat named Mulla Muhammad Ali, built a fort on Piram with the intention to establish himself as an independent chief. Afraid of the climate, his people forsook him, and the Mulla, giving up Piram, built a fort at Athva on the Tapi a few miles below Surat.[3] The lighthouse tower built from the ruins of Mulla's fortress, is being renovated at present. Besides some traces of temples, an idol of sitting Buddha was found here in 1836. While digging for staff quarters a statue probably of Kal-Bhairav, four feet in height and 1½ feet in breadth has been found recently. The local story is that Mokhdaji Gohil built a mole from the mainland to Piram has, perhaps, no better foundation, than the half sunk wall and gateway, and the reefs that, at low water, stand out like a giant's causeway.[4] This mole is now in a ruined condition.

Fossils

A large store of fossils was discovered at Piram in 1836 which included masses of petrified wood and large quantities of animal remains such as two titanic ruminants, apparently with no living types, named the Bramatherium and the Sivatherium, varieties of elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, horse, ox, antelope, several forms of crocodile, fresh water tortoises, and fishes of most gigantic size.[5] These were embedded in the rock in the south-east corner of the island, where the sea washes bare the lower conglomerate.

Development after Independence

A loan of Rs. 8,000 has been granted by the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank for coconut plantation on the island. With a view to explore the possibilities of oil in the Gulf of Cambay (of which

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1. This is the account given in the *Ras Mala* (247). According to Tod (*Western India*, 258 and *Rajasthan*, I, 266) the Gohil of Piram fought in the defence of Chitor and for his services was rewarded with the title of Raval. But this is a natural bardic addition. Some further details are given under Gogha.

2. *Ras Mala*, 248

3. Major Watson's *Gujarat History*, 104

4. *Ras Mala*, 247. Both Major Fulljames and Colonel Tod seem to believe that such a mole or bridge did at one time exist.

5. Of the size of some of the remains Baron Hugal wrote (1836), " One fractured piece of a tusk measured from the centre to the outside of the circle 5¼ inches that is 10½ inches in diameter or 34 in circumference. Jour. Bom. As. Soc. V. I, 288. The scientific names of the animals whose remains have been discovered are Mastodon perimensis ; Dinotherium indicum ; Acerotherium perimense; Rhinoceros, Bramatherium perimense; Camelopardalis; Capra; Autelope ; Sushysudrieus Theobald's Memoir on Gujarat Geology.

the island of Piram is a part), the Oil and Natural Gas Commission proposes to carry out drilling operations in the Gulf in the near future.

Rohishala—Botad Taluka (P. 2,436—M. 1,260; F. 1,176); V.P.

Rohishala lies on north latitude 21° 55′ and east longitude 71° 50′, about 26 km. south-east of Botad.

The village is ancient and is situated on the bank of the Padalio river. There is a curious legend about certain *charans* of Rohishala who lived during the time of one of the Valabhi kings named Shiladitya. One Mamadio *charan* of Rohishala was favourite of the king and the latter was so much attached to him that the *charan* was required to show his face to the king every morning. Mamadio became ambitious and started meddling in state affairs. This caused much annoyance among ministers. On account of *charan's* popularity they could not attempt openly to ruin him and instead told the king that he should not see the *charan's* face every morning as he (*charan*) was childless. The king, therefore, developed a dislike for him (*charan*) and dismissed him from attendance on him. When Mamadio came to know the real cause for this dislike by the king he was much grieved and left Valabhi and practised austerities before the shrine of Kali Mata, who appeared to him and told him that his two wives Lasbai and Devalba would bear him many children. He thereafter returned to Rohishala and in due course his wife Lasbai gave birth to six daughters and one son. Devalba also gave birth to seven daughters and one son. King Shiladitya had a very fine buffalo and was very much fond of him. These seven sisters stole this buffalo and killed him near Rohishala and were boiling his flesh in a large pot when the king came there and accused them of stealing his buffalo, to which they pleaded innocence. These sisters were *jognis*. The king examined the pot and found clothes therein but suspected them of killing the buffalo from its gold nose ring and ordered his men to burn alive the sisters and their brother. Before these sisters were burnt, they cursed the king that he would ever be childless. Once while returning to Valabhi, he passed through the *Pandhara talav* near Ningala where to his astonishment, he saw these seven sisters and their brother bathing. Seized with astonishment and remorse he implored for their pardon and begged them to recall their curse. The sisters pardoned him and took back their curse and said to him that he would indeed have children. The shrines of these seven sisters are worshipped at different places situated in the areas surrounding this place.

A Swaminarayan temple, a Ramji Mandir, a *Shivalaya* and a temple of Goddess are located here.

Sanosra—Sihor Taluka (P. 3,606—M. 1,979; F. 1,627); V.P.

Sanosra is situated on north latitude 21° 35′ and east longitude 71° 45′. It is a railway station on the Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge section. Rajkot-Bhavnagar state highway passes through Sanosra.

There is a shrine in the hills, called Sandhida Mahadev. The legend associated with this temple is that in Muhammadan times, certain Musalmans pursued and killed one of the sacred bulls. The animal, after losing its head, fell in front of the temple and was there miraculously transformed into stone. This village is also well-known for its Lok Bharati institution, established in 1953 by late Shri Nanabhai Bhatt, a prominent Gandhian educationist of Saurashtra, with a view to spread higher education to rural areas, train village youth, conduct research in problems of rural areas and serve as a cultural centre for rural folk. Its educational policy is based on the principles of *sarvodaya* as contemplated by Mahatma Gandhiji. It conducts courses of higher education in agriculture, *goshala* management, rural crafts, humanities, agricultural extension and training teachers for *buniyadi talim*.

The Lok Bharati conducts following educational courses in the field of teaching by providing a training course of two years for basic teachers. The Adhyapan Mandir of the Lok Bharati conducts this course. Secondly the Lok Seva Mahavidyalaya attached to the Lok Bharati provides for a three year degree course in agriculture, animal husbandry and rural reconstruction. A two year certificate course in agriculture is also conducted by the Lok Bharati under the guidance of the National Council for Rural Higher Education, Government of India.

Research experiments are carried on in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and dairying. Major projects undertaken by the institution include survey of fragmentation and subdivision of holdings in Sanosra village, a socio-economic survey of the students community of Lok Bharati and arranging study seminars for the improvement of standard of education.

Sartanpar—Talaja Taluka (P. 3,270—M. 1,649; F. 1,621); V.P.

Sultanpar or Sartanpar, a minor port of Talaja lying on north latitude 21° 10′ and east longitude 72° 01′, is about 10 km. distant from Talaja.

The river Shetrunji, which rises in the Gir and flows through the town of Talaja, falls into the sea near Sartanpar. The Sartanpar creek, though not very deep, affords shelter to country crafts during monsoon. The port is connected with Talaja by a good road. There seems to have been a battle fought here with the Muhammadans during the reign of Sultan Ahmed II of Gujarat. The Muhammadans were putting down the pirates with whom these shores were infested. Some *palias* (memorial stones) dated Samvat 1611 (1555 A.D.) on Monday the 13th of the bright half of the month of Maha record the deaths, respectively of Koli Kanthad and Makwana Jaso, who fell at the fight of Sartanpur. (This inscription, however, is now not very legible). In the 18th century Bhavnagar ruler Bhavsinhji also tried to clear the shore of Koli pirates, but was met with a stiff resistance. In the end, the pirates had to retire to Talaja.

The following bardic verses allude to this point.

"Oh Bhava (Bhavsinhji), Sultanpur could
not be taken even by Viceroys ;
You conquered it as Rama conquered Lanka,
Oh son of Ratna ;
You crossed the water on foot, this was
still more daring ;
Even Rama could not conquer Lanka without
bridging the sea, Oh son of Ratna ;
Whereas through fear of your army all
men witnessed this marvel,
That for an entire day no tide rose.
Oh fortunate one; Oh son of Ratna."

Bhavsinhji returned to Bhavnagar after placing a garrison at Sartanpur. During the reign of his son Akherajji, the British Government asked for his assistance in subduing Talaja Kolis, who had ventured to plunder two British vessels and in 1771 A.D. the joint forces of the British and Bhavnagar chief destroyed the Koli pirates who had to flee to Talaja. However, Akherajji declined to accept the responsibility of Sartanpur and it was, therefore, made over to the Nawab of Cambay but was eventually purchased by Bhavnagar. Sartanpur is included among the Sorath ports by *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*.

Sartanpur is famous as a port from very early times. However, any authentic data of the trade of this port are available only from the latter half of the 19th century. During those days imports chiefly were timber, bamboos, molasses and grain, while exports included only *ghee* and cotton. The present day imports consist of such articles as timber, cotton seeds, building materials and foodgrains and exports cover onion, salt, groundnut seeds, groundnut oil, *ghee*, etc.

The total volume of traffic at this port during the year 1963-64 was 13,101 metric tonnes, out of which imports accounted for 4,516 tonnes and exports 8,585 tonnes. The entire traffic was coastal. Exports of onions were highest at this port in comparison with the whole state during 1963-64 though it decreased in quantity as compared to the previous year.

Sarva—Botad Taluka (P. 2,028—M. 1,075; F. 973); V.P.

The village of Sarva, situated at a distance of about 23 km. from Botad, lies on north latitude 22° 5′ and east longitude 71° 30′ on the southern bank of the river Goma, about 22 km. south-east of Botad. It was formerly a chief town of the holdings of the Sarvaiya Rajputs, (a branch of the Chudasamas of Junagadh) and the *pargana* place under the Moghul Government. This village appears to have been founded during the British rule in India and was placed under the Paliyad *thana*. A son of Chudasama

Bhim of Bhadli, a son of Ra Noghan II of Junagadh received the *chorashi* of Sarva in appanage from Bhadli, in about the first half of the twelfth century A.D. From this house (Chudasama) come the Sarvaiyas of Amreli. Sarvaiyas Jeso and Vejo of Amreli family, when deprived of their possessions by the Muhammadans, became outlaws. Some people hold that the village Jesadhar in the Gir is named after Jeso and village Vejalkot in the same forest is named after Vejo. But generally Vejalkot is attributed to Vinjal Vaja. When Jeso and Vejo established themselves afterwards in Und, Jeso held Hathasani and Vejo a neighbouring village called Jesar. The Sarvaiyas of Sarva held Jesar till about 1710 A.D. when they were driven out by Kalo Khachar.

There is a shrine of Devalbai which is much revered and worshipped by the people residing in the neighbouring villages.

There is one small scale industry manufacturing padlocks in which are employed 12 persons. Its daily output is about 107 locks which are prepared in three different sizes.

Sihor—Sihor Taluka (P. 15,263—M. 7,770; F. 7,493); N.P.

Sihor, which lies on north latitude 21° 43′ and east longitude 72°, is a taluka headquarters and a railway junction station on the Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge section of Western Railway. Rajkot–Bhavnagar State highway passes through Sihor.

Known as Singhpur or Sinhpur (the lion city) in former times, this town lies in a picturesque place on the slope of the Sihor range of hills on the bank of the river Gautami. A still more ancient name of the place was Sarasvatpur. The old site of the city, now in ruins, is about 1 km. distant to the south. It was abandoned consequent to the fight between two rival sects of Audich Brahmins called Janis and Ranas. The fight arose on account of a sneering remark made by a Brahmin of one of these sects on seeing the wife of a Brahmin of the other clan, who was standing with her face unveiled. This fight claimed a heavy toll of lives from both the sides. At last the Janis sought aid from Kandhoji, the chieftain of Gariadhar, while the Ranas called on Visoji of Umrala for assistance. Visoji marched at once and appearing suddenly through the pass in the hills surprised the town and obtained possession of it. Kandhoji of Gariadhar was driven back and Visoji made Sihor his capital. But as the old site was defiled by the slaughter of Brahmins, he relinquished it for the present one. It continued to be the capital of the Bhavnagar branch of Gohils until the city of Bhavnagar was founded by Bhavsinhji in 1723. Excellent wall paintings depicting Bhavnagar ruler Wakhatsinhji with battle scenes, armies, cavalries, etc., are found in the Sihor Darbargadh. Sihor was supposed by Prof. Wilson and others to have been the capital of the Sinha or Sah dynasty. Modern researches, however, do not support these conjectures

but point to Junagadh as the capital of these monarchs. Sihor is said to have been bestowed on Audich Brahmins by Mulraj Solanki and to have been visited by the great Sidhraj Jaysinh of Anhilvada Patan. It, however, fell under the Sultans of Gujarat when they conquered the peninsula. Afterwards it came under the rule of the Moghul emperors. According to a popular belief, Nana Sahib Peshwa, a hero of the Indian Mutiny of 1857 (popularly called the first War of Independence), lived incognito as a *sanyansi* in his after life in the caves of Sihor under the name of Dayanand Yogindra and breathed his last here.

Sihor is surrounded by hills clothed with trees and though the jungle is fairly dense, it is more scrub rather than forest. Wild animals are now not found in it.

Near the southern wall of the city is situated a reservoir called *Brahm kund* of the *Skand Puran* fame, known for its excellent quality of water. It is said that Brahmins bathing in it will become eloquent and learned, provided they worship Nilkantheshwar Mahadev with due devotion, and those always bathing in it are promised a seat in Shiva's heaven (*Shiv-lok*). It is said that Sidhraj Jaysinh, the Solanki ruler of Patan was cured of leprosy by a bath in this *kund*. He, therefore, got it built with stone in the traditional style in vogue in his time. Further up the river Gautami, immediately beyond the *dipadio dhar* or the panther ridge, lies the *Gautam kund*, so called after the name of sage, Gautam Rishi, who dwelt here in a cave and performed religious austerities. Also named after him is the temple of Gautameshwar Mahadev.

Sihor though of a respectable antiquity does not probably date beyond eighth century after Christ. It is said that a ruler of Sihor led an expedition against Lanka (modern Ceylon) in the fifth century of the Christian era, but this is extremely doubtful. The coins found there are usually not prior to the reign of Emperor Muhammad Tughluq of Delhi, except for a few of Valabhi sovereigns. However, most of the coins belong to the Sultans of Gujarat or of later emperors of Delhi of Moghul descent.

From here also runs a branch line up to Palitana. The dyers of Sihor are very skilful and their dyeing work is very much appreciated. Metal utensils particularly of brass and copper made at Sihor as also snuff, mortar and *pendas* (a sweet from milk) are very famous. Besides oil mills, Sihor has a ceramics factory manufacturing sanitary wares and another concern manufacturing electrical appliances.

Songadh—Sihor Taluka (P. 3,767—M. 2,086; F. 1,681); V. P.

Situated on the bank of hill stream Utavali, Songadh lies on north latitude 21° 35′ and east longitude 72°.

Songadh was the headquarters of the Agency *thana* during the State's regime. It is 31 km. west south-west of Bhavnagar, 24 km. north north-east

of Palitana, 23 km. south of Vala (Vallabhipur) and about 64 km. east of Lathi. Thus Songadh is a centrally situated place in the district, being a railway station on the Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge section. The entire station is planted with trees and there is an excellent station garden. It is also situated on Bhavnagar-Rajkot state highway and is served by the State Transport buses. The village was originally known as Sonpuri, but its name was changed by Sir Seymour Fitzerald, the then Governor of Bombay, at Garasias' request, on the occasion of his visit to Songadh on December 31, 1870. The climate of Songadh is considered to be very healthy. Songadh has a *gurukul* which is managed by the Aryakumar Mahasabha, Baroda, and was started on 10th March, 1929. Land and buildings of the *gurukul* were donated by late Sheth Mansukhlal Chhaganlal Desai who had purchased the same from the Agency *thana*. It runs a primary school and two high schools, one of them being for girls. The number of total inmates was 1,100. A primary teachers' training college administered by the Education Department of Gujarat State and a primary health centre are also located here.

Ashrams founded by Kanji Maharaj as also by a Jain *muni* named Charitra Vijaya Ratna Ashram are also found at Songadh.

Talaja—Talaja Taluka (P. 7,067—M. 3,613; F. 3,454); V.P.

Talaja, the taluka headquarters, is located on the north latitude 21° 22' and 72° 40' east longitude. It is about 50 km. south of Bhavnagar. It is a railway station on the Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva narrow gauge railway line and is connected by bus with Bhavnagar, Mahuva and other places.

Situated on the slope of a hill crowned with a Jain temple nearby and at the confluence of Talaji and Shetrunji rivers, Talaja is famous for two things, as a birth place of the renowned Gujarati saint-poet Narsinh Mehta and for its Buddhist caves. Narsinh Mehta, a Nagar Brahmin was a staunch follower of Lord Vishnu. He was the first in his caste to worship Vishnu for which he was tortured as Nagars are all worshippers of Lord Shiva. The legend associated with this place is as follows.

The place is said to derive its name from *Talav daitya* (demon) who originally is said to have reigned in the hill and hence the hill was also called Taldhvajgiri. This demon (*daitya*) caused much trouble to the people residing nearby by both killing and eating them. He was destroyed together with his brother *Dadhmo daitya* by Goddess Bhavani, who is worshipped here by the name of Tulja Bhavani. There are also a cave and a small temple sacred to *Talav daitya*, who is locally known as *Kalvo daitya*. A lamp is lit in the cave in the memory of *Talav daitya*, every Saturday night. It is said never to have been extinguished, however, violently wind might have blown or on account of heavy rains. Talaja was originally a belonging of Valas about whom many legends are told in Forbes *Ras Mala*. Valas

seem to have been uprooted later on, by the Vajas, who appear to have ruled here for a short time. A legend associated with the last of its chieftains, Harraj Munjraj, indicates that he compelled certain *charans* of Babriat to sell him their horses. The price fixed was *10,000* *koris* but the Vaja chieftain paid only 5,000, refusing to pay the remainder. Seeing this the two *charans*, father and son, committed *traga* (suicide). Kagbai was sister-in-law of the *charan* who committed suicide, and his wife was named Nagalbai, a sister of Kagbai. When Nagalbai heard the news of this incident, she started forthwith for Talaja to inquire but warned not to relate this matter to her sister, Kagbai, who possessed supernatural powers. However, the news somehow reached Kagbai and she started burning the town. In the end she with her sister Nagalbai (wife of the *charan*) became *sati* in Babriat after cursing the Vaja chieftain about his destruction. Thereafter the Vajas were shortly dispossessed by the Baria Kolis. Bards said some poetry concerning the death of *charans*, some of which are as follows.

> " The peaks of the hill (of Talavdaitya) at Talaja
> were seven *kos* in height,
> But by your wrath, Oh Kagbai !
> They were thrust down to hell.
> Mother, you uprooted
> Both the Tal hill and the Vajas.
> Mother, the measure of your fame
> has increased,
> Oh Kagbai; until it has filled the 500
> millions of miles of the earth's
> circumference."

These Kolis were daring pirates and plundered some British vessels. A British force was at once sent to co-operate with Akherajji of Bhavnagar in subduing them. After a brief conflict, Kolis were driven out. As Akherajji was unwilling to accept Talaja, it was bestowed on the Nawab of Cambay who deputed a governor there. It proved, however, to be a troublesome possession to the Nawab and eventually in 1773 A.D. Wakhatsinhji purchased it from the Nawab. But as his governor refused to vacate, he was expelled by force and since that date it remained with Bhavnagar. In 1768-69 A.D. Wakhatsinhji attacked the place in concert with Diwan Amarji of Junagadh. On this occasion the Diwan was wounded in the leg and on the payment of a fine by the Kolis, the Diwan's and the Bhavnagar forces retired.

Talaja hill abounds in Buddhist caves. These caves are cut into isolated conical rocks. There are nearly 30 such caves with 15 to 20 tanks for storing water. They are simple and are wanting in ornamental carving. The only cave possessing some ornamentation is known by the name of Ebhal Mandap. It is a big hall measuring 23 $\times$21 $\times$15.5 metres. There are no

cells within the hall. On the facade of the cave, there are *chaitya* windows with a broad band of *vedika* below them. One of the caves in the Talaja hill is called Narsinh Mehta's School. Talaja is a place of pilgrimage of the Jains on account of the Jain temple on the hill. Good building stones are also found from these hills. Sartanpar, Talaja's port, is situated only at a distance of about 10 km. from where coastal trade is carried on.

Besides the taluka office, Talaja has a dispensary, a municipal hospital and a high school.

Tana—Sihor Taluka (P. 3,895—M, 1,980; F. 1,915) ; V.P.

Tana lies on north latitude 21° 30′ and east longitude 72° 05′. The nearest railway station of Madhada is at a distance of about 11 km. on the Sihor-Palitana metre gauge section.

It was a scene of fight in 1794 A.D. between the Bhavnagar troops under Thakor Wakhatsinhji and Kundla Khumans aided by Palitana. The Bhavnagar troops were victorious and the Kathis were defeated. There are many fertile gardens round the village famous for their excellent fruits. *Jambus*, mangoes, etc., are also grown in considerable quantities.

Timana—Talaja Taluka (P. 1,324—M. 673; F. 651); V.P.

Timana which lies on the north latitude 21° 26′ and east longitude 72° 02′ on the north-eastern bank of the river Shetrunji, is about 13 km. north of Talaja and 42 km. south-west of Bhavnagar.

A legend associated with this village is that a conjurer visited the place and perfomed many tricks. Amongst others was one of producing a stream and making it vanish at pleasure. The *Raja* (king) knowing how much water supply was needed in the village, signalled to one of his followers to cut off the conjurer's head while performing this trick, so that the stream might be perennial. This was done, and the stream has remained ever since and never failed even in years of most deficient rainfall.

The celebrated battle between Pandava Bhim and the king of Bhadravati Nagari (said to have been Bhadraval) was, it is said, fought near the *mendhani dhar* within the Timana limits. In this battle Pandavas were victorious and Bhadravati Nagari was demolished. Consequently the king removed his capital to Timana where many remains attest to its former greatness. Prominent among these was an artificial lake of considerable size which as it had silted up, is now used for cultivation. Two copper plate grants were discovered from here. These are dated Samvat 1264 (A.D. 1208) and mention Bhim Deva II (Bhim Bholo) as being the paramount sovereign of Gujarat from the throne of Anhilpur Patan. Chavingdev was his prime minister and Mehar Shri Jagmal the local ruler. There is also an inscription in the Shial island below an image of Mahavir Swami dated Samvat 1272, Jyeshtha Vad 5, Sunday to the effect that a band of pilgrims established this image for

the spiritual welfare of Mehar Rajshri Ransing, the local ruler of Timana. Mehar Shri Jagmal founded the temple of Chandreshwar and Prathvidiveshwar, the latter is still standing in a good condition. Next mention of Timana occurs in the *Vastupal Charitra* in about 1211 A.D., in which mention is made of a merchant named Tilha of Timana who purchased the right of worship at the temple of Timana by buying a wreath of flowers offered for public sale. The first offer was for 24 lakh *drams* but Tilha offering all that he had, purchased the garland and with it the right of worship. Timana was a place of battle between the Khumans of Kundla and Thakor Vajesinhji of Bhavnagar.

Timana was famous for its pure *ghee*. A fair is held every year on Shravan Vad 15 (*amas*).

Trapaj—Talaja Taluka (P. 3,276—M. 1,714; F. 1,562); V.P.

Trapaj, which lies on north latitude 21° 20′ and east longitude 72° 05′, is about 5 km. east of the Shetrunji river and about 13 km. north-east of Talaja. It is a railway station on the Bhavnagar-Mahuva narrow gauge railway and is also connected by bus with other places.

Known as Tarapur in ancient times, the village was the headquarters of subordinate revenue and police officers. This was one of the 12 villages given in appanage by Sana Vala (after whom the Sana hill is named) of Bhadrod to his younger brother Sura Vala. Sura Vala, whose memorial pillar stands in village Mathavda to this day, is said to have fallen fighting with Muhammad Tughluq, who personally came to Gujarat to curb the piracy of the Valas, who had plundered the emperor's vessels. After the death of Sura Vala, Trapaj along with other 11 villages was possessed by Moja Ahir; but 8 of these villages were recovered by Bhadrod Valas and only four villages, viz., Trapaj, Panchpipla, Umrala and Borla were retained by the Ahirs. For these four villages Moja Ahir paid annual tribute to Bhadrod Vala and afterwards when Bhadrod was conquered by Muhammadans, his (Moja Ahir's) descendents paid tribute (for these villages) to the Muhammadan authority at Gogha. When the Ahirs failed to pay the tribute, Muhammadans dispossessed them of these villages. Ahirs, however, sought the help of Gariadhhr chief Kandhoji and with his help recovered them from Muhammadans. However, Kandhoji instead of returning them to the Ahirs bestowed them on his younger brother Mandalikji, who shortly afterwards reconquered other villages of Trapaj *tappa* and ruled there. This Mandalikji, who had married a Vala lady of Bhadrod, was treacherously killed at his father-in-law's house. His (Mandalikji's) descendents were given village Ralgon in compensation for this murder. The descendents of Mandlikji still inhabit the village Trapaj. The *tappa* of Trapaj and its dependent villages were conquered by Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar in 1735 A.D. The soil of Trapaj is favourable for the growth of onions, trees, etc. There is a rocky ridge in the limits of Trapaj called Ishvar Dhar on which a temple sacred to Ishwareshwar Mahadev was erected. Trapaj has a hospital, a dispensary, a high school, a library, etc. Kavi Trapajkar belonged to this place.

Ujalvav—Umrala Mahal (P. 726—M. 362; F. 364); V.P.

Ujalvav, a railway station on the Bhavnagar-Surendranagar metre gauge railway line of the Western Railway, lies on north latitude 21° 45′ and east longitude 71° 45′. It is about 10 km. south of Umrala, the mahal headquarters. The town derives its name from the clearnese of the water of a well there. It was populated by Thakor Wakhatsinhji in 1800 A.D. There is a small hill or ridge to the west of the village called Jhumpadi Dhar where good building stone is available.

It is situated in a rich cotton area and its soil is favourable for the growth of groundnut and cotton. The temple of Vagadia Hanuman is famous in this area.

Umrala—Umrala Mahal (P. 4,255—M. 2,171; F. 2,084); V.P.

Umrala, the mahal headquarters, lies on 21° 51′ north latitude and 71° 51′ east longitude. The railway station of Dhola is at a distance of about 8 km. from Umrala.

Lying on the southern bank of the river Kalubhar, Umrala was the capital of the Bhavnagar Gohils prior to the acquisition of Sihor in 1547 A.D. Bards called it Umarkot. According to another version it was named after a Koli named Umo, who founded the town. After the expulsion of Gohils from Ranpur by Muhammadans, they attacked Umrala under the leadership of Mokhdaji and killed Umo and made Umrala their capital. Ranoji, father of Mokhdaji, was killed at Ranpur by Muhammadans, who marched towards Sejakpur and conquered that place. Mokhdaji left the place before they arrived and conquered Bhimrad from Valas and established himself at Umrala. The following couplet is said regarding Mokhdaji's conquest of Umrala.

"Thou, O obstinate and powerful Mokhda,
hast commenced the game.
The son of Rana will remain immovable
until he has conquered Umrala."

Although the naming of Umrala is ascribed in popular legends to Umo Koli, it was really named after Umbro tree (*Figus glomerata*), and this theory is supported by the spelling, which is classically Umbrala.

The soil of Umrala is fertile and the main crops are *bajri*, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, and groundnut. The temple of Dholnath Mahadev situated on the bank of the river Kalubhar is famous in this area and a fair is held here every year on Sharvan Vad 15 (*amas*).

There are a seed research farm, a maternity home and a veterinary dispensary here. The town draws its water supply from Ranghola tank and its electricity from the grid system. It is connected by bus with other places.

Vallabhipur—Vallabhipur Mahal (P. 6,908—M. 3,589; F. 3,319); V.P.

Situated on north latitude 21° 55′ and east longitude 71° 55′ on the banks of the river Ghelo, the ancient and prosperous city of Vallabhipur, later known as Vala, was the capital of the princely State of that name up to 1948 when it was amalgamated along with other States of Saurashtra into the United State of Saurashtra. The railway junction of Dhola (on the Surendranagar-Bhavnagar metre gauge line) is only 18 km. away from this place which is 35 km. north-west of Bhavnagar on the state highway from Ahmedabad to Bhavnagar.

Prior to the foundation of Valabhi, the official capital of the province was at Vamanasthali (Vanthali) in Junagadh district. At that time only the coast belt and the strip from Wadhwan to Gogha was inhabited with the exception of Vanthali, Junagadh and a few towns and villages isolated in the dense forest. Under these circumstances Valabhi was most advantageously situated to repel an invader and was close to the mainland and communication with the outer world. Probably too, in those times the waters of the Gulf of Cambay, if they did not actually reach the capital, were not far removed from its gates, and the city had thus the advantage of sea communications, besides being situated in a position which every foreign invader must pass if he wished to reach Somnath Patan and the fertile region of the coast belt. The former seaworthiness of the place is testified by the buoy that guard in entrance to the town even today.

The city of Valabhi existed since long even before the rise of the Maitraka power. It finds mention in Panini's *Ganapatha*. It also figured as a celebrated centre of learning as well as of trade and commerce in the ancient literature. An eminent centre of Jainism, the redaction of the Jaina canonical works was done at Valabhi in about 300 A.D. It was closely associated with Buddhism as well. Acharya Sthiramati and Gunamati, disciples of Asanga and Vasubandhu respectively, who flourished in the fourth century A.D. had completed their treatises in a *vihara* near Valabhi.

Senapati Bhatarka who belonged to the Maitraka family, started the Valabhi dynasty which ruled over Saurashtra for over 300 years. The Maitrakas were a warlike people, probably descended from Mitra, one of the four principal disciples of Lord Lakulisa. The city was chosen as the capital of their new kingdom on account of its long and glorious career as well as its maritime position in the Gulf.

The Valas established their power shortly after the fall of Valabhi dynasty. The name Valas seems to have been derived from Vala, the later form of Valabhi (in Sanskrit) or Valahi (in Prakrit). The Valas trace their origin to Vrishaktu and ruled there till the thirteenth century. Ranoji, the son of Sejakji Gohil marched against Vala, and slew Ebhal Vala in an encounter. However, the triumph of the Gohils was but short lived, as they were overthrown by Muhammadans in 1297-98. Vala was then ruled by

Muhammadan viceroys appointed by the Moghul emperors till the death of Emperor Aurangazeb in 1707 A.D., when it passed into the hands of Bhavsinhji, the founder of Bhavnagar, who assigned Vala with two other villages to Visoji, the founder of the present house of Vala. During the reign of Gambhirsinhji, the present ruler, the State along with other princely states in the peninsula, was merged into Saurashtra. Vallabhipur now is the place of mahal headquarters in Bhavnagar district.

Old coins, copper plates, seals and other articles excavated from the surrounding areas and preserved in the museum attached to the municipal library testify to the antiquity of Vala which was renamed Vallabhipur in 1946. Temples of Budheshwar and Siddheshwar Mahadev are also reported to have existed at this place since ancient times.

There are two seed multiplication farms, a high school and a government guest house. Water is supplied through pipe line. The town gets electric supply from the grid system. State Transport buses connect it with other important places around.

Varal—Sihor Taluka (P. 2,537—M. 1,308; F. 1,229); V.P.

Varal, lying on 21° 25′ north latitude and 72° 05′ east longitude is about 35 km. south of Bhavnagar and about the same distance from Sihor.

The village is said to have been a very flourishing one in former times, but it declined in the 18th century owing to constant raids and warfare. It did not remain in this condition for a long time and was repopulated. A battle was fought near this village between the forces of Nawab Hamidkhanji of Junagadh and Thakor Wakhatsinhji of Bhavnagar at the close of the 18th century. Later on Kathis also attacked this village but without any success. In 1883 the village was plundered by Sadul Khasia.

Vartej—Bhavnagar Taluka (P. 5,276—M. 2,703; F. 2,573); V.P.

Situated at a distance of about 11 km. from Bhavnagar, on the bank of the river Maleshwari, Vartej lies on north latitude 21° 35′ and east longitude 72° 05′. It is a railway station on the Surendranagar-Bhavnagar section of the Western Railway. It is about 13 km. from Sihor and 8 km. from Bhavnagar. In one of the old Sanskrit inscriptions in Vartej (which is not very legible) Raval Shri Bhunaji of Sihor was mentioned as a local ruler. This place is mentioned as roadstead (*barah*) in *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*. The idol of Satmata's *panja* or palm is very much revered and worshipped here by the people. This *Satmata* is said to have been the wife of a merchant, Kandolia Brahmin by caste, who had lost everything in trade and whose house had also been burnt in fire. Much aggrieved and disappointed by these losses, the merchant and his wife mounted the funeral pyre and burnt themselves on the first half of Kartik, Samvat 1974. People built a temple in her honour. A fair is held here on Shravan Vad 15 in honour of Ganganath Mahadev where about 1,000 people participate.

Besides Amar Stone Quarry Works there are three bricks manufacturing concerns, viz., D.R.V. Bricks Manufacturing Company, Bhavnagar Bricks Manufacturing Company and Bharat Bricks Manufacturing Company. The Western India Steel Industries at Vartej manufactures round bars, flat bars, shift hooks, water tank, oil tank and general fabrication materials. Besides these, there are two chemical works, viz., Bhavnagar Chemical Works and Jayant Chemical Works (Pvt.) Limited. Bhavnagar Chemical Works manufactures de-oiled groundnut cakes, pharmaceutical preparations, black oil and soap. The products manufactured by the other chemical company include ultramarine blue, sodium silicate and filter aid. The Vartej Bones and Fertiliser Company manufactures bone meal, bonegrist, crushed bones, horn meal and leather meal.

Excellent pomegranates and guavas are grown in the garden lands of Vartej and neighbouring villages. It has a high school, a dispensary, a Sarvajanik Kumar Lokshala and a Jain *dharmashala.*

Zanzmer—Talaja Taluka (P. 1,211—M. 621; F. 590); V.P.

Zanzmer, which lies on 21° 05′ north latitude and 72° 10′ east longitude, is about 19 km. south of Talaja and 5 km. west south-west of Gopnath Temple. The railway station of Gopnath Road is hardly 10 km. away from this place.

The village of Zanzmer is said to have been founded by Zanzarsi Vala who bestowed it on Khimoji Vaja of Uncha Kotda. The Portuguese who were since long looking for a foothold on this coast conquered it from Vajas and built a strong fort here and also fortified the two rocks called Bhenslo and Bhensli. The former of these is an island at high water and still shows traces of tanks and fortifications. There still exists a *palio* or memorial stone at Zanzmer of Vaja Kanyaji dated Samvat 1513 (1457 A.D.) which says that he fell fighting against the Moghuls. There is a *vav* (reservoir) dating back to the time of Vajas. Zanzmer is mentioned as a roadstead in the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi.*

GLOSSARY

A

Acharya	A religious head; a preceptor
Adhar	Basis
Adharma	Non-religious practices; an act not ordained by religion
Advaita	A doctrine of Hindu philosophy propounded by Adi Shankaracharya according to which there is no duality between the soul and the God, i.e., complete identity of the individual with the supreme God
Agarbatti	An incensed stick
Agiyari	Parsi Fire temple
Ahimsa	Non-violence
Akika	A Muslim ceremony to be performed at certain intervals within a month after child birth
Akshar Gnan Yojana	Literacy drive
Amavasya	New moon day; the last day of dark lunar fortnight
Anu	Usually the first occasion after marriage when a married girl goes to her husband's house.
Aram Grih	Rest-house
Arti	Waving a lighted lamp before a deity
Ashram	Hermitage
Atta	Flour
Audyogic	Industrial
Avani or Avanu	A type of song in *bhavai* or folk-drama
Avatara	An incarnation
Ayojan	Planning

B

Bagayat	Irrigated lands
Baharvatiya	An outlaw
Bajri	Indian millet; name of a cereal
Balkridangan	A children's playground
Balmandir	A school for children below 5 years
Bandhani	A popular variety of a *saree* involving tie and dye work
Banti	A coarse variety of corn, used as food
Barah	Roadstead
Barkhali	A tenure of alienated land
Bhaga	Share
Bhagbatai	Crop share
Bhajan	Devotional song

B-*contd.*

Bhajan Mandali . . A band of devotees singing devotional songs

Bhagwati Diksha . Initiation into holy orders

Bhakti . . . Devotion

Bhavai . . . Folk-drama performed generally by itinerant troupes

Bhavishya . . . Future

Bhiksu . . . A Buddhist mendicant

Bhojan Shala . . Boarding house

Bhoodan . . . Voluntary gift of land

Bhungal . . . A musical instrument

Bhuta . . . Ghost

Bhuva . . . A worshipper in the temple of a Goddess, who becomes possessed by spirit

Bidi . . . . An indigenous cigarette made from *tendu* leaves and tobacco

Bighu . . . A unit for measuring land

Boli . . . Dialect

Botan . . . Giving solid food for the first time to an infant

Brahmacharyashram . The first of the four stages of life prescribed by Hinduism

C

Chaitya . . . A Buddhist sanctuary which enshrines a relic from the body of Buddha

Chakla . . . A square at cross roads

Chamar . . . A tanner: one of the Scheduled Castes

Charan . . . A bard

Charkha . . . A spinning wheel

Chawl . . . A series of houses having a common passage

Chhamasi . . . A ceremony performed in the sixth month after death

Chhatralaya . . Students' hostel

Chhint . . . A printed cloth

Chori . . . The square enclosure wherein the bride and the bridegroom take ceremonial rounds of the sacred fire

Chudo . . . An ivory bangle worn by a Hindu married lady, whose husband is alive

Chundadi . . . A tie and dye silk saree

D

Dal . . . . Split pulse

Dandia . . . Sticks used at the time of playing *ras*

Darbargadh . . Residence of a ruler or a village yeomen; royal palace

D-contd.

Darshan	Sight or glimpse of a deity
Devi	Goddess
Dhanyadeya	Payment in corn
Dharma	Religion; path of duty
Dharmada	Charity
Dharmashala	Public rest-house
Dhoka	A club
Dhoti	A white waist cloth worn by males
Dhun	A continuous recitation of the names of deities
Digambar	A branch of Jains; literally an individual without clothes
Diksha	Initiation
Dokiyun	Necklace
Dipmala	A tower of lights
Duhas	A ballad

E

Ekadashi	Eleventh day of a lunar fortnight observed as a fast by a Hindu

F

Falka	A reel of thread
Farsan	Salted eatables usually made of gram flour and fried in oil

G

Gadi	Hereditary seat
Gandharva	A celestial musician
Gandharva marriage	A type of secret marriage recognised by Hindu Law
Garba	A sportive dance of females
Garbi	A sportive dance by males
Gau	Two miles or 3·2 km.
Gau-shala	A cow-shed
Ghani	Indigenous oil mill driven by a bullock
Gharkhed	Personal cultivation
Ghee	Clarified butter
Ghughara	A kind of toy
Giras	Lands given to cadets or junior members of a chieftain's family and their descendents for maintenance
Girasdari	A system of land tenure
Girasia	Holder of Girasdari land
Gnan Bhandar	A treasure of knowledge; library
Godi	Dockyard

G-*contd.*

Godi-kamdar . .	Dock-labourer
Gokrida . . .	Worship of cow; a ceremony observed on Divali day when the cows are decorated with paints and gathered together before the temple of Krishna
Gopa . . .	A cowherd
Gotra . . .	Lineage
Grahasthashram . .	Second of the four stages of life of a Hindu
Gram . . .	Village
Gramodyog Bhandar .	A store or emporium where products of village industries are sold
Gram Panchayat .	Village council
Gram Vikas Mandal .	Rural Development Board
Gur	Jaggery
Guru Dakshina . .	Fees paid to a preceptor
Gurukula . .	A residential university or teaching institution

H

Hazur . . .	A person of exalted rank
Haks . . .	Rights
Haldarvo . . .	The name of a tree ; *Nauclea cordifolia*
Hamal . . .	Labourer; carrier of load
Hamali . . .	Charges paid to a labourer for carrying load
Hansadi . . .	A type of necklace
Havan . . .	Sacrifice
Haveli . . .	A temple of the Vaishnava sect
Hijrat . . .	Migration associated with Prophet Mohammed who went from Mecca to Madina in 622 A. D.
Hinchko . . .	A swing
Hiranya . . .	Gold
Hiranyadeya . .	Payment in gold

I

Ijara	A contract; monopoly
Inam	A kind of land tenure; gift

J

Jadtarno . . .	Adorned with decorative fittings
Jagir	Land granted to second class land-holders by Musalman chiefs for some special service rendered
Jalebi . . .	A kind of sweetmeat
Jambu . . .	Black plum; *Eugemia Jambuna*
Jamfal . . .	Guava
Jan	Bridegroom's party

J—*contd.*

Jati	An ascetic; a Jain mendicant
Jianu	An occasion when the wife return to her husband's house with her first child when gifts in the form of garments and ornaments are given.
Jillo	District
Jivai	Land given for maintenance or in lieu of services rendered without the occupancy rights
Jogni	A female ascetic possessing some miraculous powers
Jowar	A kind of coarse millet

K

Kadun	Armlet
Kalsi	A measure which equals 16 local maunds of 40 local seers
Kamdar	Labourer; Manager
Kankar	Crushed stone
Kankotris	Marriage invitation
Kansar	A sweet preparation of wheat flour, *ghee* and sugar or *gur*
Kansara	Coppersmith; tinman
Kanthapatti	A frame fixed on the top of the walls of a *patara*
Kanthi	Basil beads passed through a thread worn by the followers of Vaishnavism
Kanyadan	Giving of daughter in marriage
Kanyashala	Girls school
Kapad	Cloth
Katha	Religious discourse; mythological legend
Kathol	Pulses
Kazi	Judge (Muslim)
Kevda	The name of a leaf having a sweet smell; *Pandanus odoreissmus*
Khala	Threshing floor
Khalsa	Agricultural land held directly from the State
Khandi	A measure which equals 20 local maunds of 40 local seers.
Khatedar	A tenant; a holder; an occupant
Khedut	Cultivator
Kherati	Grant of land for religious purposes
Khatabandhi	A kind of revenue tenure on which the land-holding is held by a cultivator on payment of a fixed rent for a fixed term of years.
Kiledar	Officer in charge of a fort
Kinnar	A celestial musician

K—*contd.*

Kirtan	A devotional song in praise of God
Kodiyu	An earthen lamp
Kodra	Coarse variety of corn
Kos	Water lift
Kotar	Ravine
Kothli Chhodaman	Fee charged by an indigenous money-lender at the time of advancing loan
Kumar Mandir	Boys school
Kund	Pond
Kutcha (*road*)	Unmetalled

L

Laga	Tax; fee
Linga	Emblem of Lord Shiva
Lohar	Ironsmith

M

Machhwa	A small boat
Mahal	A subdivision of a district
Mahant	Head of a temple
Maharatri	The great night or Mahashivratri which falls on Magh Vad 13
Mahila Mandal	A women's institution carrying on welfare activities
Mahila Shivan Class	Ladies Tailoring Class
Mahila Vidyalaya	Ladies school
Mamlatdar	A revenue officer in charge of a taluka
Mandal	An institution or organisation formed by a group of persons with some specific purpose
Mangalsutra	A kind of ornament considered auspicious and worn by married women
Mantra	An incantation
Mapni	Measurement
Mata	Mother goddess
Math	Monastery
Matrakas	Local Godesses
Maulvi	A Muslim scholar
Mayaru	The marriage booth
Mindhal	The emetic nut; name of a fruit of the plant *Randia dumetorum*
Mlechha	A term coined by followers of Hinduism to denote those who did not follow its canons.
Mug	A kind of pulse : *Phaseolus mungo*
Muhurta	The auspicious moment or occasion
Mulgirasias	Descendents of original proprietors who surrendered land to a neighbouring chief in return for protection.

M—*contd.*

Mulkgiri . . .	Land raiding system in Kathiawar under the Mughals and Marathas; annual armed expedition for exacting tributes from chiefs
Mulmul . . .	Muslin
Munj	A kind of grass from which a girdle to be worn by a Brahmin boy at the time of sacred thread ceremony is made.

N

Nagarsheth . . .	A leading citizen in a city or town
Naib	Deputy
Natra	Widow remarriage
Nazrana . . .	Present; gift
Neera	A drink extracted from palm trees
Nikah . . .	Muslim wedding ceremony
Nirvan . . .	Demise; attainment of the highest spiritual truth

O

Odhani . . .	An upper garment worn by girls
Osari	The verandah in front of the house
Otla	Platform

P

Pada	Foot or place
Padavarta . . .	Footstep
Palio	Memorial stone
Pan	Betel leaf
Panchmahabhutani. .	Five elements of which the universe is formed.
Panchamasi . . .	After-death ceremony observed in the 5th month
Panchamrit . . .	Mixture of milk, *ghee*, honey, curd and sugar
Panchayatan . . .	A group of five deities, i. e., Ganapati, Devi, Sun, Vishnu and Shiva worshipped together
Panigrahana . . .	Acceptance of the hand of the bride by the bridegroom
Para	Suburb
Pargana . . .	A smaller administrative division
Parsal	The front portion inside a house used as a multi-purpose room
Parvat . . .	Mountain
Patasa . . .	A candy made of sugar
Pathshala . . .	School
Peet	Under well irrigation
Pehramani . . .	Dowry

P—*contd.*

Pishacha	Evil spirit
Pitrakas	Forefathers
Polka	Blouse
Prant	A province; a larger administrative division
Puja	Worship
Pujari	A person in charge of worship of a deity in a temple
Pucca	Solidly built; durable

Q

Quran	The holy book of Islam

R

Raidana	A design with small grains like mustard seeds
Rangoli	A design drawn with coloured powders
Rannadeva	Name of family deity
Ras	A sportive dance performed jointly by males and females
Ras garba	A type of folk-dance
Rashtrabhasha	National language
Ras-lila	The sportive dance of Lord Krishna
Ras-mandli	A band of persons playing at *ras*
Rayat	Subject; tenant
Rishi	Sage
Rudraksha	Rosary used by Shaivaites for counting beads and also worn around the neck; *Eaeclocarpus ganitrus*

S

Sabha Mandap	A meeting hall pandal or the assembly hall in front of a temple
Sabras	Salt
Sadhu (Sanyasi)	Mendicant
Sahukar	Money-lender
Samadhi	Self-immolation: a memorial raised to honour a particular saint
Samvat	Era; year
Samvatsari	Death anniversary
Sanad	Charter; certificate; grant
Sangheda	A hand operated lathe
Sanskar Kendra	Cultural centre
Santi vero	Plough tax

S—*contd.*

Saptapadi	The seven steps taken together by a bride and bridegroom round sacrificial fire during the marriage ceremony which makes the marriage complete and irretrievable.
Sathi	Servant engaged by cultivators for the whole year on payment of wages in cash and kind
Shakti	Power; Mother goddess
Shaligram	A round black stone worshipped as Vishnu. These are usually found in the river Gandaki in Nepal.
Shastras	Scriptures, sacred books
Shishir	Second of the six seasons, viz., *Hemant*, *Shishir*, *Vasant*, *Grishma*, *Varsha* and *Sharad*; occurring in Paush or Magh (January or February)
Shivlinga	Phalic image or emblem of Lord Shiva
Shraddha	Obsequies, a ceremony performed for the salvation of the departed soul
Siddhi	Salvation; accomplishment
Sortha	Name of a metre or couplet
Sreni	A corporate body or guild
Sresthi	The head of a mercantile guild
Stupa	A monument erected to commemorate Buddha
Suba	A Revenue officer
Sudharna	Improvement
Suri	A Jain priest
Suryavanshi	A clan of Rajputs claiming descent from the sun
Suthar	A carpenter

T

Tabla	A kind of drum
Takli	Spindle
Talaq	Muslim form of divorce
Talav	Pond
Talukdars	An estate holder
Tappa	A headquarters of a group of villages
Taziah or Tabut	The structure representing the *dargah* or tomb of Hussein at Karbala, made usually of bamboo and tinsel, carried in procession during Moharrum for final immersion in water
Thanadar	An officer in charge of a *thana*
Tippana	Jottings; short notes
Tirthankar	One of the 24 incarnations of God worshipped by Jains

T—*contd.*

Tirthatan . . .	Pilgrimage
Tirtha Upashraya . .	A halting place for Jain *sadhus*
Toran	Festoon
Tur	A kind of pulse; *Cajanus cajan*

U

Udid	A kind of pulse, *Phaseolus radiatus*
Udranga . . .	Revenue imposed on the permanent tenents who had to pay the total revenue of the village in gross
Uparikara . . .	Land tax paid by tenants
Utara	A camp

V

Vaje	Crop share
Vahivatdar . . .	An administrator
Vaidya . . .	Practitioner in Ayurvedic sustem of medicines
Val	Name of a pulse, bean; *Deolichos lablab*
Valand. . . .	Barber
Van Mahotsava . .	A festival connected with planting of trees
Varmal . . .	A garland of cotton yarn worn at the time of marriage
Varnashram . . .	Four strata of Hindu society
Var raja . . .	Bridegroom
Vasvaya . . .	A class of artisans
Veth	Forced labour
Vighoti . . .	Cash assessment
Vihara . . .	A Buddhist monastery
Vira Samvat . .	Jain system for calculating a year
Visaya . . .	A subdivision of a province during the Hindu period
Vishisthadvaita . .	Qualified non-duality; a doctrine of Hindu philosophy propounded by Ramanuja called qualified monism, by which the individual soul and the insensate world are the attributes of the Supreme Soul and form His body.
Vivah	Marriage
Vrat	A religious observance
Vyayamshala . .	Gymnasium

W

Watao	A commission or fee paid to a money-lender

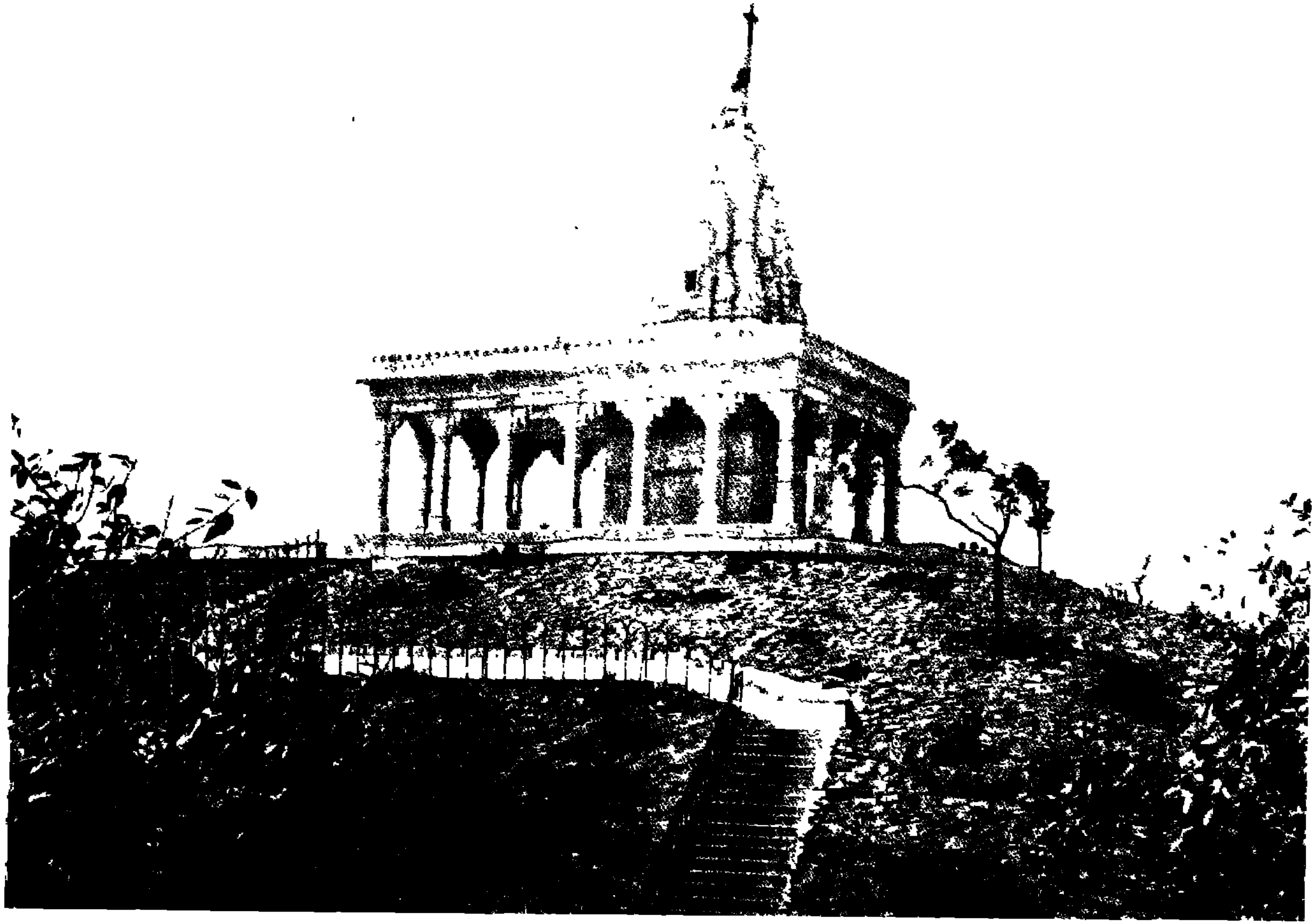
Z

Zortalbi . . .	Tribute collected by force by Junagadh Talukdar after the departure of Marathas from Kathiawar peninsula.

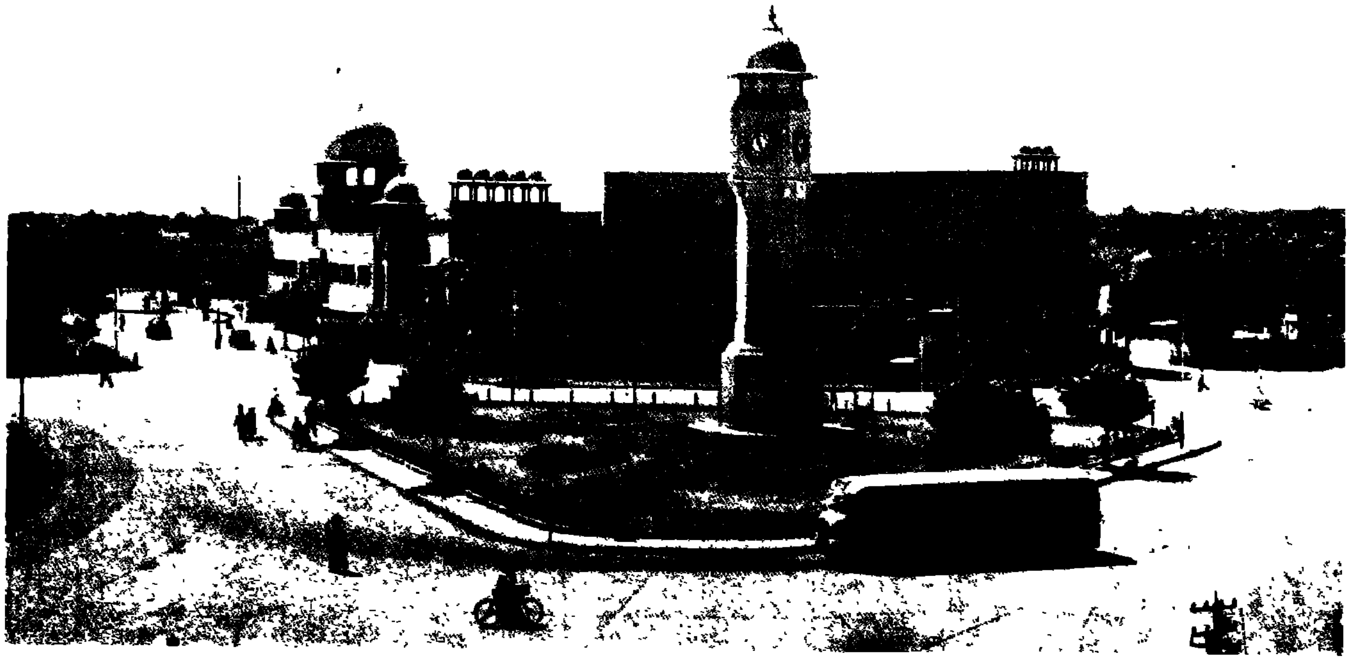
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186	3	9	18·71	19·09
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187	Statement IV·21	Sl. No. 3	39,451	271,941
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PLATES

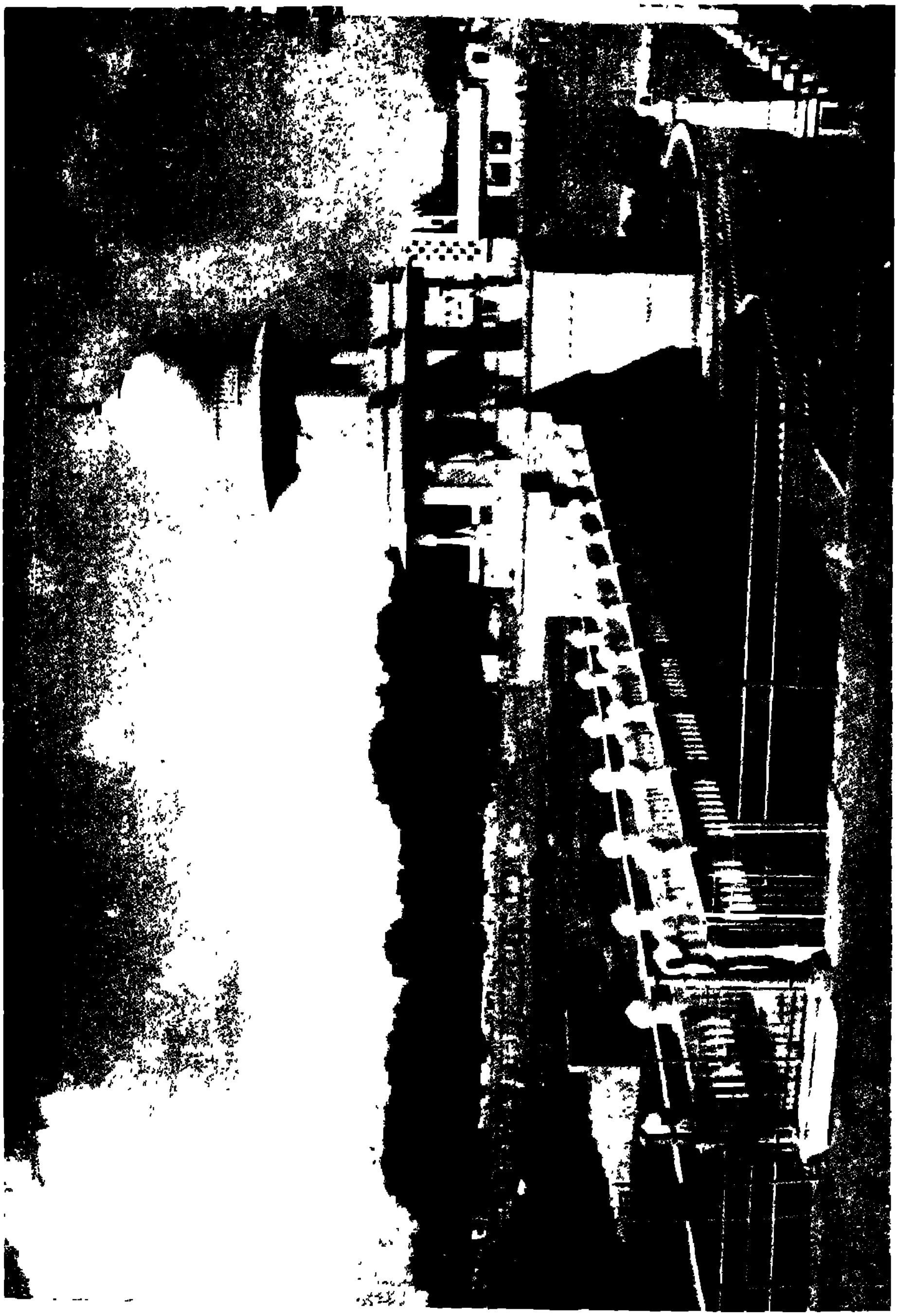


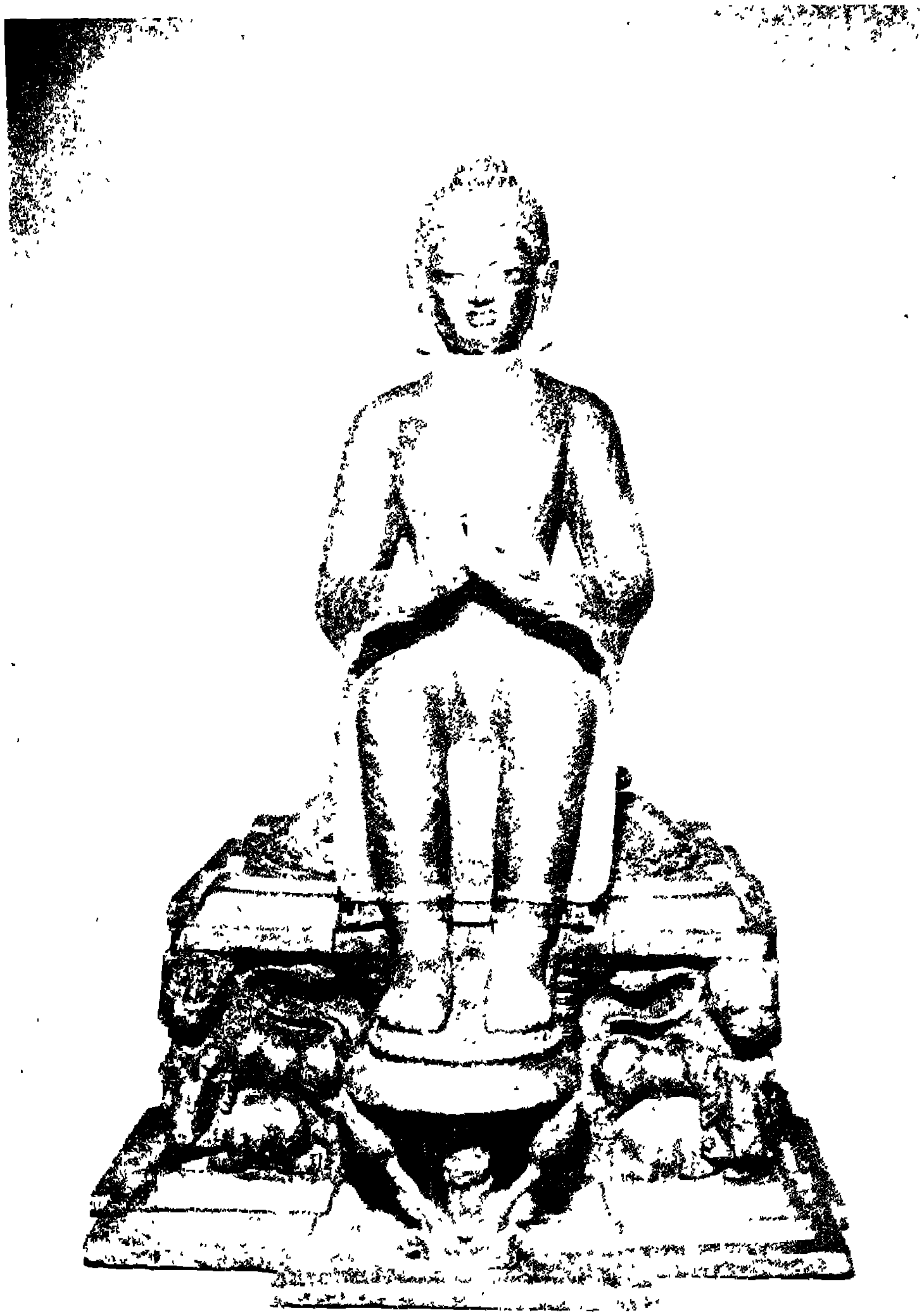
Takhteshwar Temple, Bhavnagar (See p. 569)



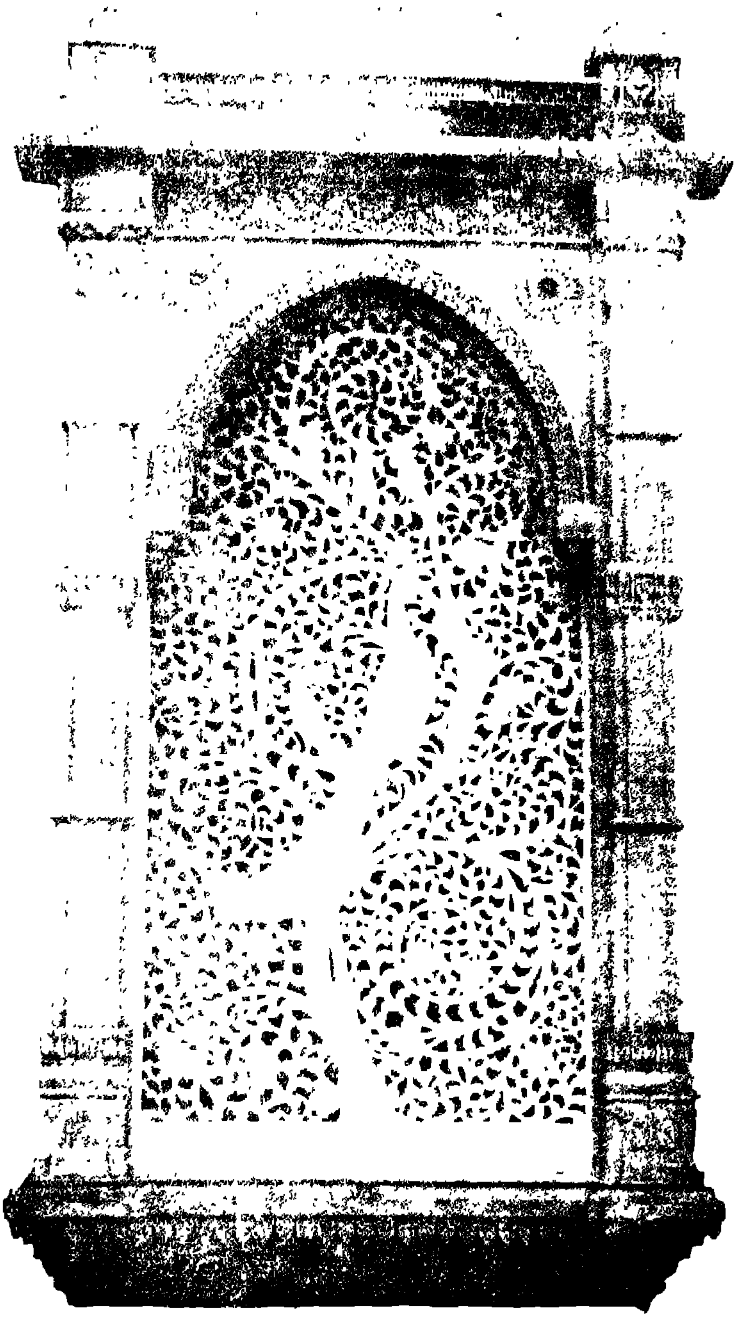
Gandhi-Smriti, Bhavnagar

The large and spacious stone facade in the background houses Gandhi Picture Gallery, Library and Museum, Khadi Gramodyog Bhandar and an open air theatre (See pp. 523-24)

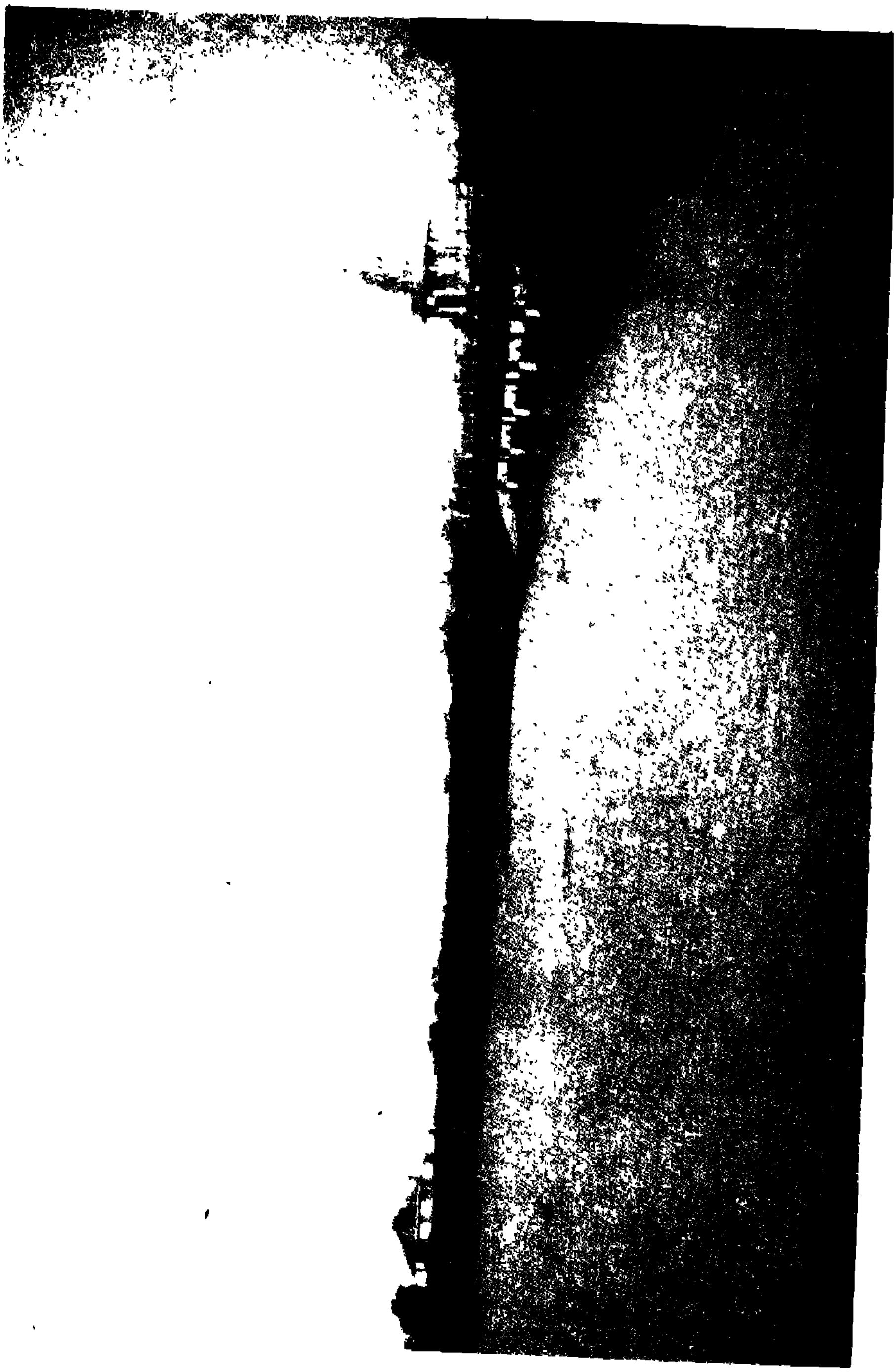


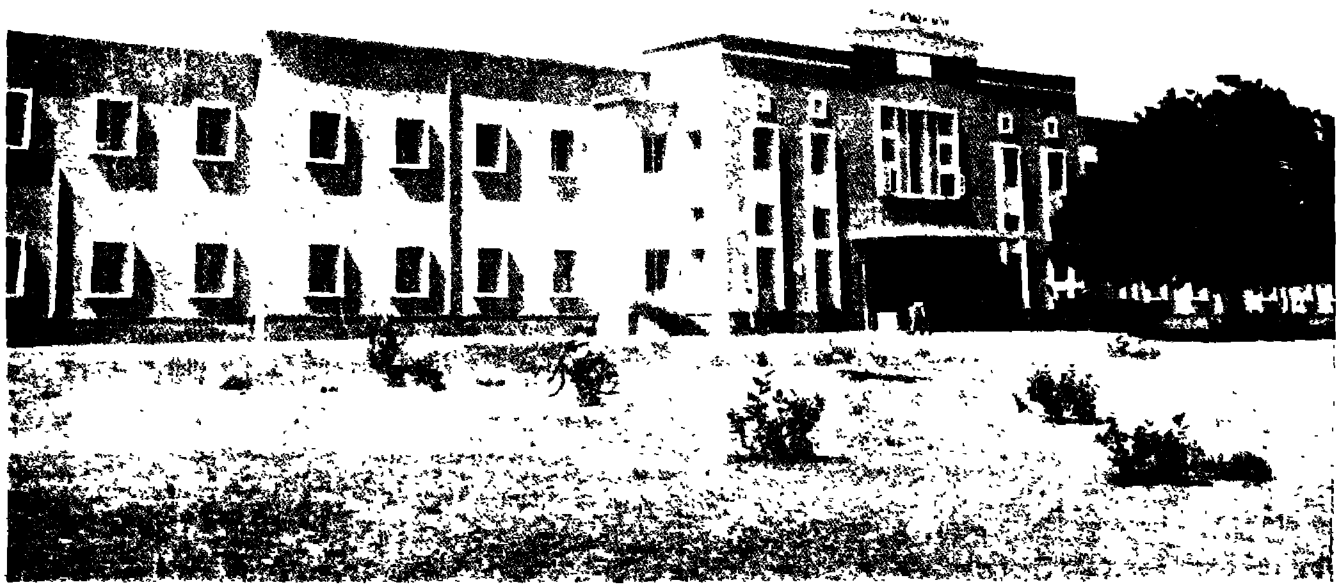


Gilt Bronze Buddha in Gandhi Smriti, Bhavnagar, believed to belong to the sixth century, A. D. corresponding to the Maitraka period at Valabhi
Size : Base 14 cm . Height 20 cm

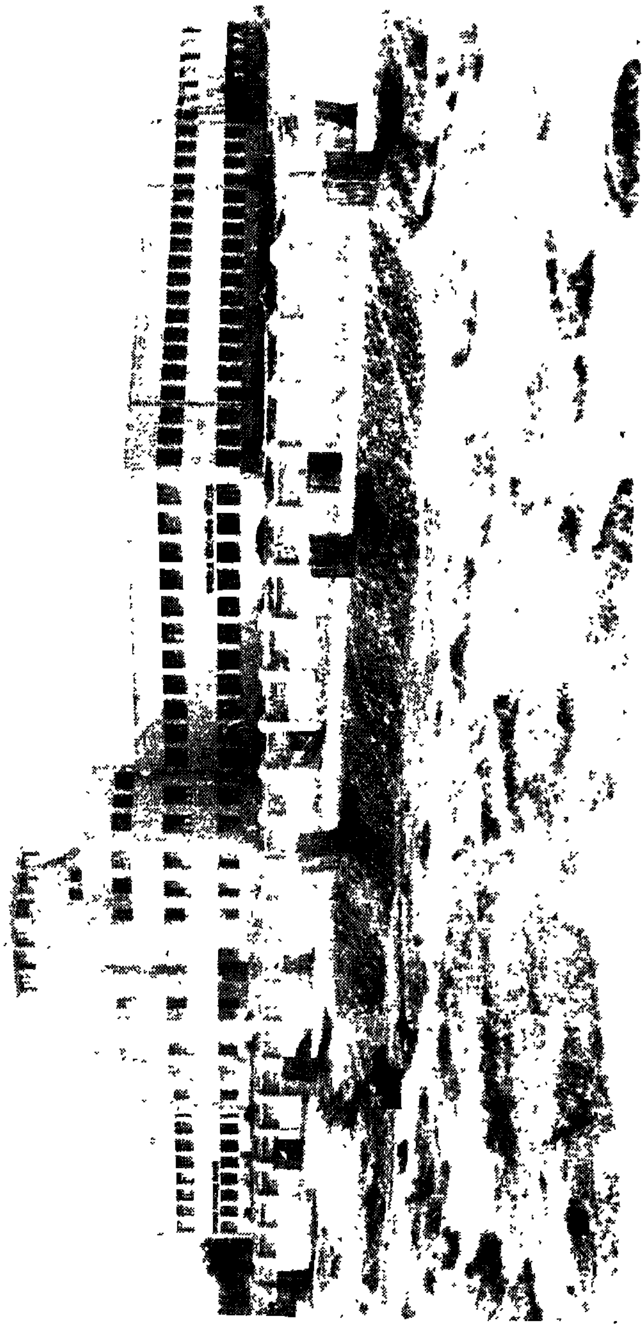


Perforated Marble Panel, (old) Samaldas College building, Bhavnagar





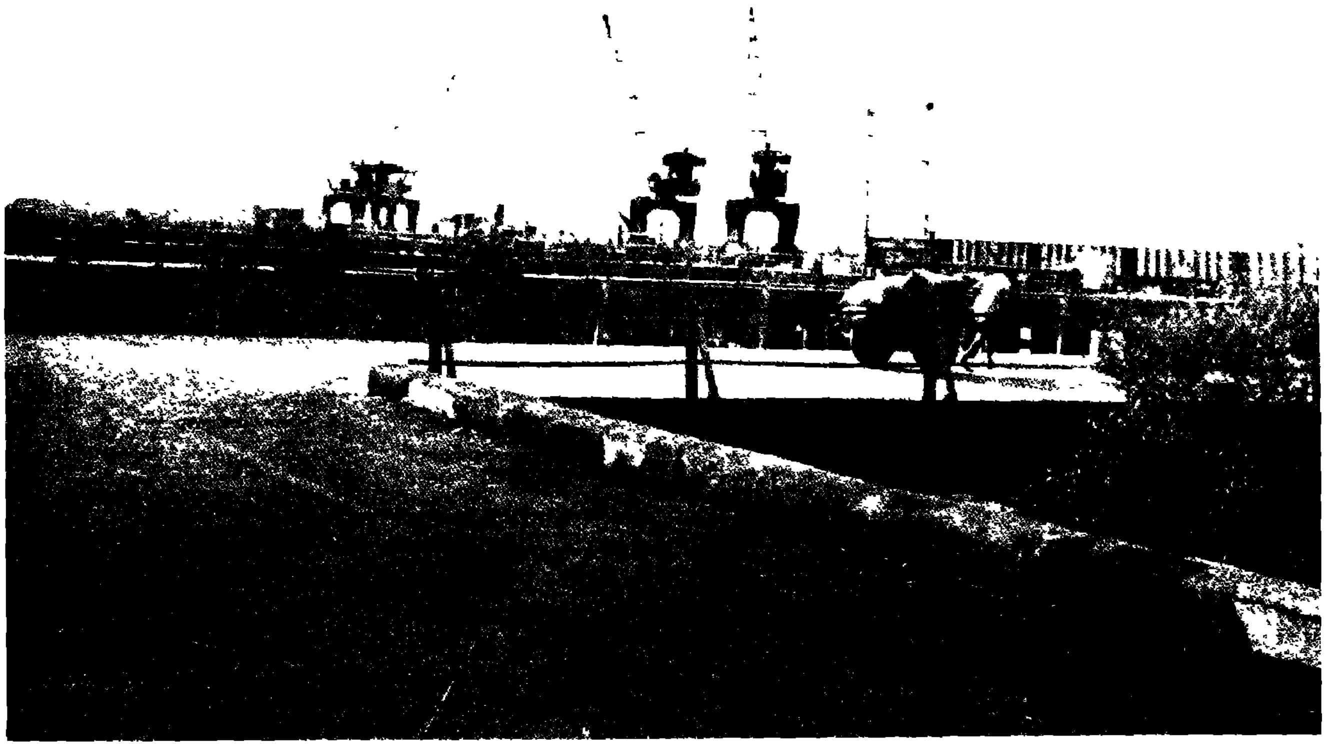
Samaldas Arts College, Bhavnagar (See p. 507)



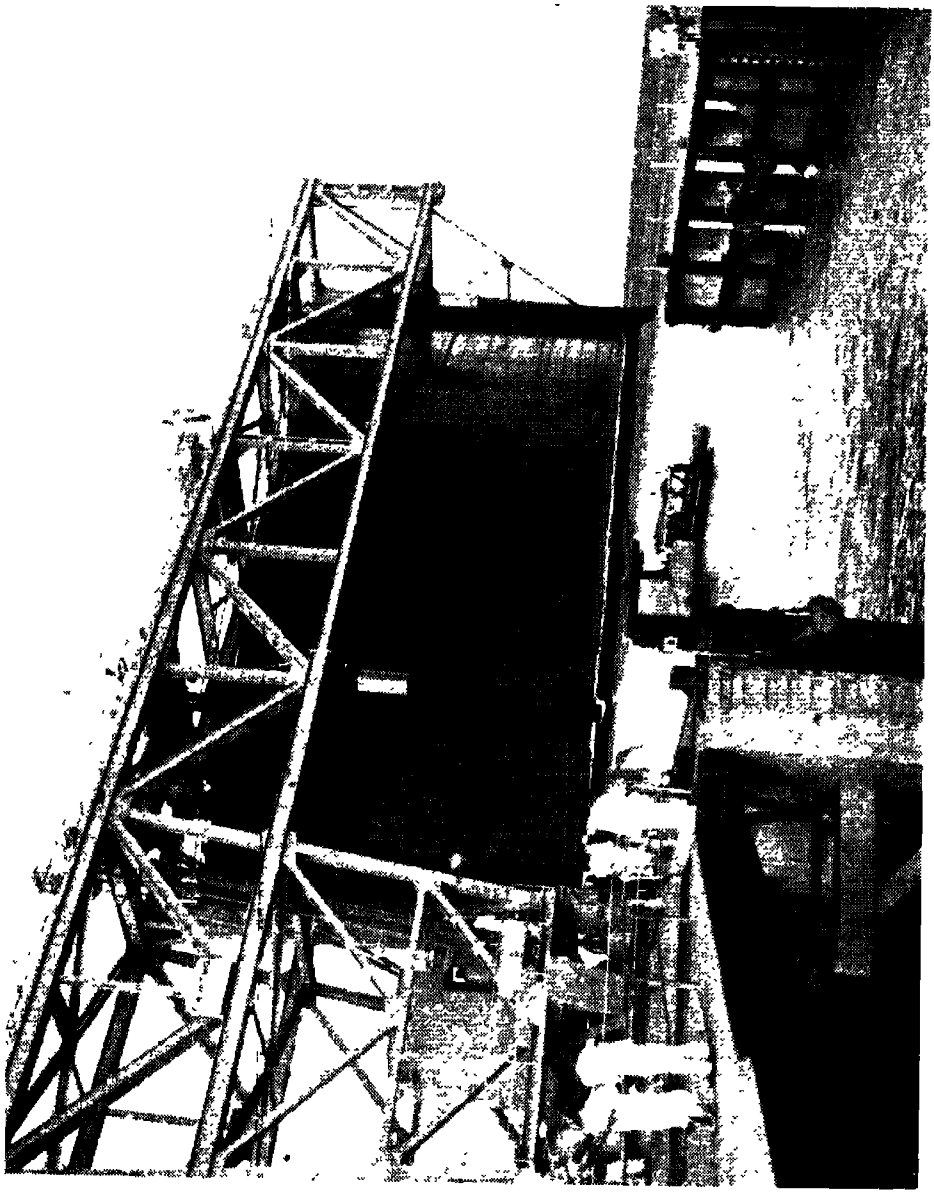


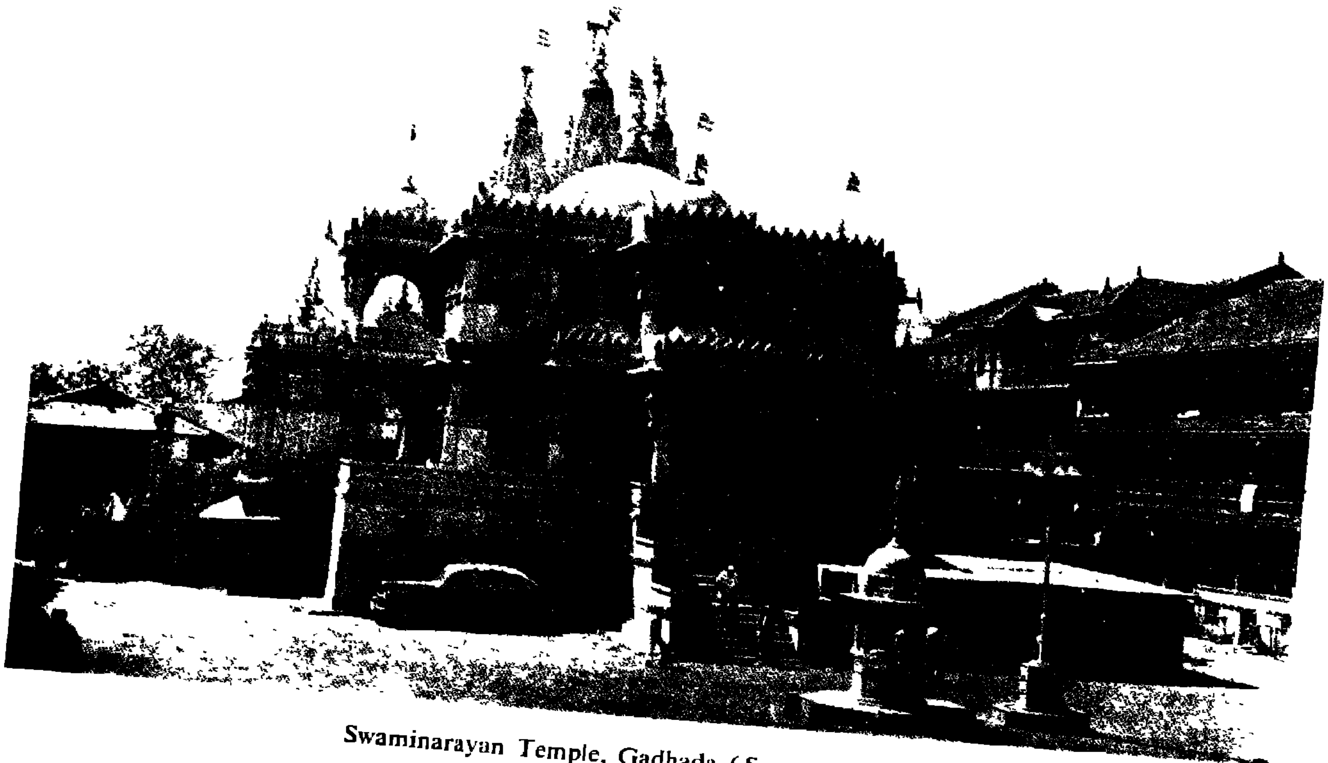
Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar (See pp. 509, 570)





Concrete Jetty, Bhavnagar Port (See pp. 269-300, 347)

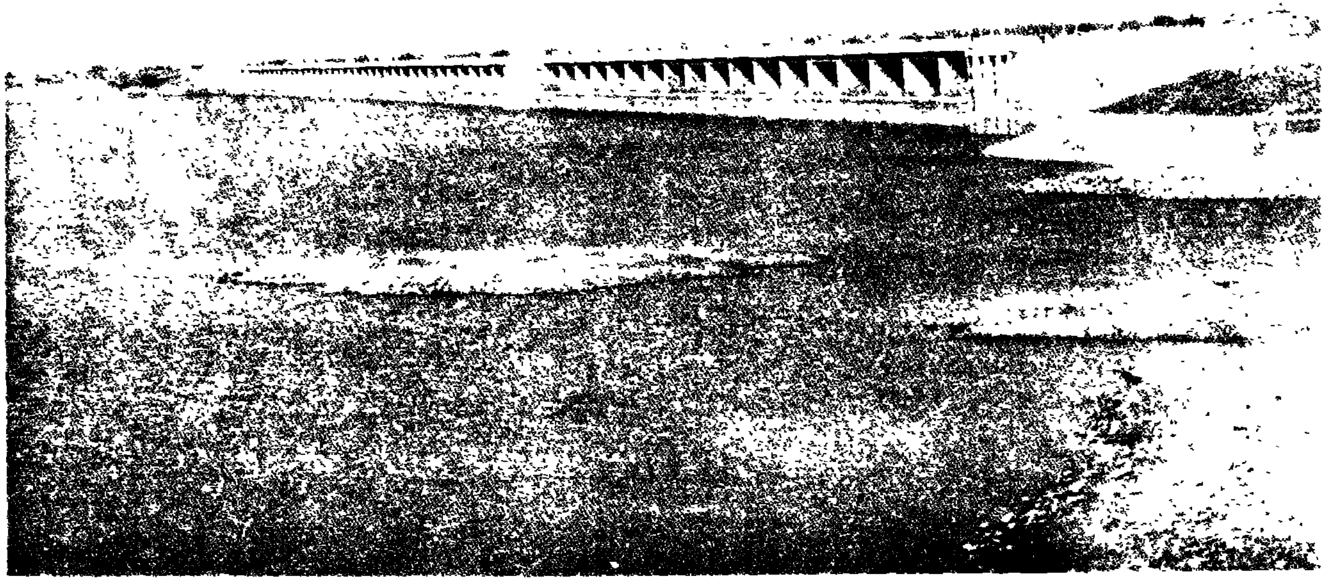




Swaminarayan Temple, Gadhada (See p. 578)



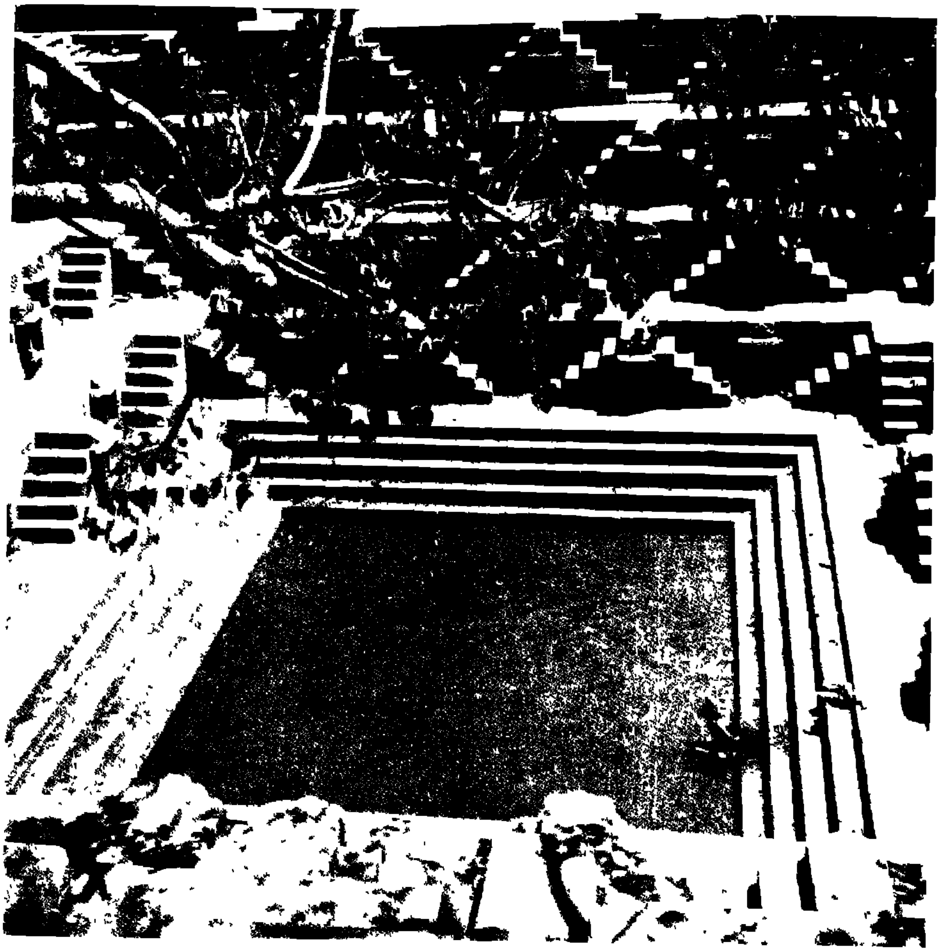
Jain Temples on the Holy Mount Shatrunjaya, Palitana (See pp. 179-180)



Shetrunji Dam, Palitana, the biggest in Saurashtra (See pp. 179-180)



Jain Temples, Talaja (See pp. 614-615)



Brahm-kund, Sihor built by the Solanki King Sidharaj, the builder of Rudramal (See p 613)



Fresco in the Darbargadh at Sihor
Incidents from the battle of Chital



Fresco in the Darbargadh at Sihor

Thakore Wakhatsinhji, alias Atabhai, on his favourite mare 'Sihan' carrying his famous lance



Frescos in the Darbargadh at Sihor

Top : Bapurai Gohel (on Elephantress 'Koka') welcoming Thakor Atabhai after the Campaign of Chital

Bottom : Jamadar [illegible] with his Arab [illegible]

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